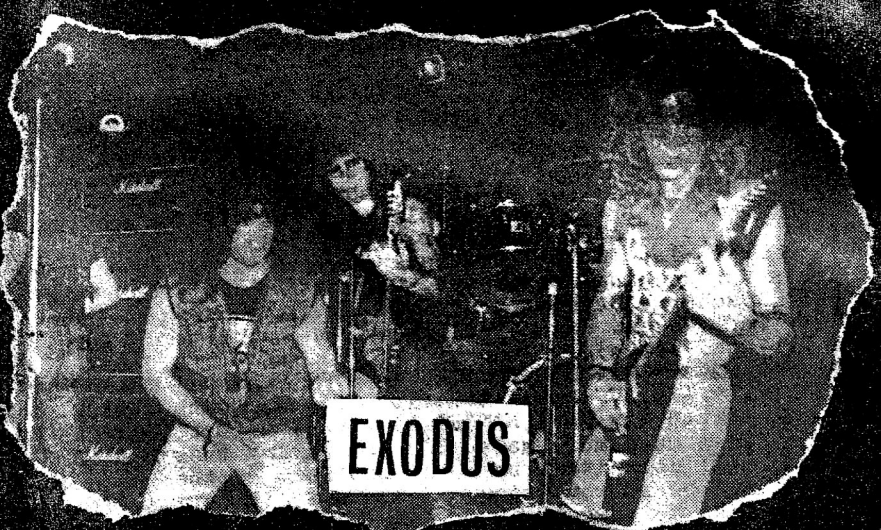
PHOENIX MILITIA

VOI VOD

POSSESSED



EXODUS

Wargod

HALLOWS EVE

Atomkraft

TANKARD

Dark Angel

HELLOWEEN

N.Y.C. Mayhem

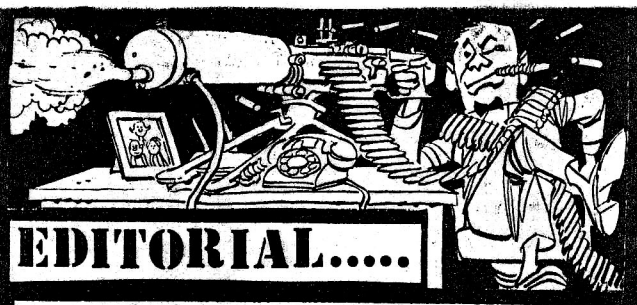
CYCLONE

C.O.C.

SAD IRON

Hirax

issue no.6



EDITORIAL.....

Yes it's back...PHOENIX MILITIA has returned from the murky depths of apathy to regain its position as king of the British zines,however there have been changes,for one the editorial duties have exchanged hands,yes we the Peroxide Pair have sorta gone into early retirement so to speak and passed the buck onto mega-thrasher Bill Steer. So as this is his first handling of the good-ship PHOENIX, take it easy on him - eh!!! Of course we will be making contributions and giving our advice/comments,I mean we can't have this whippersnapper ruining our reputation.

Another change is the shift from being 50% Punk/50% Metal to 100% Metal,now this is no fault of mine,I would still like to see an equal split,but alas....summat will have to be done to redress the balance I think....yep,DIATRIBE rubbing shoulders with HELLOWEEN,CHRIST ON PARADE with SLAYER ....we'll see.

Anyhow that's all there is really to say, any additions can be done by Bill,so take care and watch out for DISATTACK and we'll see you at the gigs.

"GET IT CUT AND GET IT SPIKED"

P.S. I'd like to thank a few people (name-dropper):-Middie,Mandy,Alasdair,Jack,Mike, Paul,Robby,Neil,Alison,Cal,Kelly,Lynne, Julie,Jon,Sanjiv,Simon,Dig,Jenny,and every-one I've known/know/met/screwed/ripped-off/ blagged/written to/heard/and generally encountered in my miserable 20 years of existence.....

"SEE YOU IN HELL FIRST" - PEK '86

OK,that's Pek's little contribution to the editorial page,now this is the new PHOENIX MILITIA deathmonger here. Firstly,I wanna apologise for the huge delay in getting this issue out. There were many reasons for this, the main ones being that 1) Pek and Middie are extremely lazy,2) I had to find a new printer and it took me ages,3) A certain person (who shall remain nameless) was origi-nally supposed to help me with the zine but he lost all interest in the Hardcore/Metal scene,yet couldn't be bothered to pass on all the stuff he had to me. But I'm sure you're getting bored with all the excuses so I'll change the subject.....

I don't know where Pek got the idea that PHOENIX MILITIA will be going "100% Metal", cos it's definitely NOT. Alright,I admit that this particular issue has loads & loads of Metal bands in,but not too many Punk bands....but in future issues there should be a fairly equal balance between Hardcore Punk-Thrash and Death Metal.

Talking of Metal,I heard that some other UK zine reviewed the last issue of PHOENIX and said something about "trendy punx" becom-ing "trendy metallers".....well let me just say here and now that I am in no way a trend-following bandwagon jumper. I've been into Metal for years and I only got into Hardcore Punk relatively recently (about 2 years ago) - so please don't write me off as some fashion-crazed punk who's just discovered Metal. Don't get me wrong,I have nothing at all against punks,in fact I think that most of them have a far far better mentality than 99% of all Metal fans,it's just that I don't want you to misunderstand what I'm about. I could go on forever about this Hard-core/Death Metal crossover thing,but I'd only end up painting myself into a corner or talking a load of bullshit,so I'd better stop. Suffice to say that I think they're both totally excellent forms of music,and I'd find it very hard indeed to say which I like more.

And before any of you "punk purists" out there (I think you know who I'm referring to) make any rash assumptions,let me tell you that I am NOT into racism,violence,sexism or any other crap - believe it or not,it is possible to enjoy Death Metal and remain a fairly pleasant young man!!

Oh,all my moaning must be getting pretty annoying by now,I have at least a thousand other things to say but I can't remem-ber half of 'em! I'm sorry about the reviews being so out of date (especially 2 of the gig reviews which are a year old!!) but I kept them in because I thought they might be of interest .....ah well,like it or lump it.

Hmm,I reckon it's about time I put an end to your boredom and let you get on with reading the rest of the zine. I hope that you'll like this issue of PHOENIX MILITIA,there are more pages than usual as I really wanted to make it worth the wait, if you see what I mean. I can assure you that the next issue of P*M* will be out a lot quicker,I can't say exactly when, but it will surface at least before the end of 1986!!

OK,that's it,I've simply gotta stop here as I have a massive thanks list & playlist to fit on this page. Enough of my bull-shit. Enjoy the mag and take care of yourselves,OK!? UNITY!!

"DEATH IS GOOD FOR YOU" - BILL '86

PLAYLIST (in no order)

MASTER - LP advance tracks / SUICIDAL TENDENCIES - LP
STORMTROOPERS OF DEATH - LP & live 18.12.85
N.Y.C. MAYHEM - demo 6.85 & live 14.7.85 / SHITLICKERS - EP
DECAPITATION - demo / CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER - demo & live
MISFITS - "Earth AD/Wolfsblood" LP & various EP's,live etc.
HERESY - EP & live / DAMAGE - "Sins Of Our Fathers" LP
DEATH - everything / LEGACY - demo / A.O.D. - everything
M.D.C. - LP & live / NUCLEAR ASSAULT - "Hang The Pope"
BLACK TASK - EP / POSSESSED - LP / D.R.I. - everything
ASOCIAL - 2nd demo & EP / SPINAL TAP - film soundtrack
NAPALM DEATH - demo 86 / CRAB SOCIETY - demo / LARM - all
EXODUS - all /....oh,sod it,I can't be bothered typing out any more,I think you've got the idea by now anyway.

thanks! & Hello to this horrible bunch.....

SPECIAL THANKS GO TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR HELP,ADVICE, CONTRIBUTIONS etc.:- Pek,Middie,Ken,Scott Givens,Alco Pater and Andy (Press Gang).

THANKS TO:- Mitch,Mike Davidson,Gordon (MAYHEM,or ex-MAYHEM to be precise!),Wayne Blackshire,Paul May,Paul Fox,Paul Nesterok, Marty Eger,Chris & Mike Gardner,Vadim Rubin,Piggy (VOI VOD), Greg (WARGOD),Gene (DARK ANGEL),Kurt (N.M.E.),Scruff (HELLBAST-ARD),Stephan (THANATOS),CYCLONE,HELLOWEEN,MANNSLAUGHTER, ASSASSIN,Katon (HIRAX),C*O*C*,HALLOWS EVE,ATOMKRAFT,ENGLISH DOGS,TANKARD,Jeff (C.O.M.A.) and everyone else who I forgot, you know who you are! Not forgetting Paul (bass savage).

HELLO TO:- Richard (SMELLIEST BREATH),Gibby,Scott Lynch,Shane (WARHAMMER),Sanjiv,Robby,Kelly,Tom Capone,Bluey,Alan Yates, Matt Salb,Gene Khoury,Neil,Pete C.,Huw Davies,Mike (U.B.B.), Steve Cleary,Jack (wherever you are!),Hammy,Nick Jones,Randy Tang...and anyone else I write to or know,sorry if I missed out your name!

Any Thrash bands wanting a feature,interview,review or what-ever should contact me at this address:-

Bill Steer,
Thornwood,Tower Rd North,
Heswall,Wirral,
Merseyside,L60 6RS,
England.
(Tel:051-342-3990,please don't reverse the charges!)

Some of you may remember the DISATTACK "interview" back in issue 4,well since then DISATTACK has become a proper band... the line-up is:- Middie (drums),Pek (vocals),Paul (bass) and Bill (that's me! guitar). We recently went into the studio to do a 4-track demo which will either be released as tape or as an EP. We also did 2 live tracks which will be featured on Middie's forthcoming comp. tape. Our sound is a cross betw-een S*O*D*,Discharge,Bathory,Diatribe and Destruction to name just a few influences. For more information,contact us at my address (printed above).

PHOENIX MILITIA no.7 should contain:- Napalm Death,Heresy, Warhammer,Concrete Sox,Mace,N*M*E*,Disattack,Master,Radical Behavior,Excel & much much more. I'm not saying that ALL of those bands will definitely be in it,but most of them will be. The layout will be improved too,and there won't be any more wimpy stuff like Helloween!

SOME MORE HIGHLY-RECOMMENDED LISTENING:-

DEATHRASH - demo / WARHAMMER - everything / ACCUSED - EP
STARK RAVING MAD - both EP's / PROKOFIEV - "Alexander Nevsky"
SLAYER - "Haunting The Chapel" EP / LETHAL AGGRESSION - demo
DISATTACK - demo (modest,eh??!) / N*M*E* - LP / LUDICHRIST
DIE KREUZEN - LP / INSANITY - rehearsal / AGGRESSION - LP

Blood Bath!

HEX

AN INTERVIEW WITH KATON OF CALIFORNIA'S.....

QUESTIONS WERE ASKED BY VADIM RUBIN OF "BRAIN DAMAGE"

THRASHING METAL

WHEN DID YOU START PLAYING FAST?

Well,pretty much when we got Scott and Johnny in the band,that would be about a year ago now. We were fast we thought but we got a lot faster after they were in the band a little bit longer so I'd say maybe 8 months ago. But we always keep getting faster so that's a weird question. Every day we get faster.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO PLAYING LIKE YOU DO NOW?

Well...some guy who's doing the interview was pretty much into trading tapes,and I started getting tapes from him and after a while we both started getting into the underground scene a lot more,and we liked it a lot so we pretty much wanted our style to get a lot more Hardcore. We're very influenced by what's going on in the underground...we wanna keep getting faster,so hopefully we will.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CURRENT BANDS YOU'RE INTO?

Mostly the Hardcore bands,a lot of the Metal bands are pretty gay. Bands like A.O.D.,Rocks (??) those guys are great,when they came round here they fuckin' shredded...STARK RAVING MAD fuckin' rip balls,those guys are hot. Some of that stuff from England's real good,like the STUPIDS and CONCRETE SOX,those guys are good. And I still like the underground Hardcore Metal stuff like CELTIC FROST, SODOM,DEATH and stuff like that...as long as it stays heavy and fast that's all that matters.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF DESTRUCTION'S "INFERNAL OVERKILL" LP?

No comment!!!!!!!!!!!!

TELL US ABOUT THE SHOWS YOU DID RECENTLY WITH EXCITER AND MEGADETH.

Er,OK,the shows we did,one of them was in Long Beach,that was fuckin' great,the kids were killing each other which was real cool to see...a lot of fuckin' diving and shit!! The only thing that did suck was that playing with Exciter and Megadeth was fucked because both of those bands are fuckin' gay. I fuckin' hate Exciter,I think those guys are fags and I never wanna play with them again unless we have to. San Diego was good too,but L.A. was better because there were more people thrashing and diving...San Diego's pretty cool though,it's not as bad as people would think. But Exciter are fags! I hate those guys...if anybody reads this interview and doesn't like what I'm saying,too bad,because if you ever meet Exciter or play with them you'll see why I hate 'em,they're fags. They didn't give us a soundcheck,they fucked our sound totally...there's no excuse for that.

DO YOU GUYS EVER DRESS UP TO GO ONSTAGE?

Dressing up to us would probably be getting new sneakers, that's about it.

WHAT DO YOU USUALLY EAT FOR BREAKFAST?

I never usually eat breakfast,if I do eat breakfast it's usually shit like raisin bran...I only eat that shit if I have to. I like cookies or left-over pizza,that's cool.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE LOCAL SCENE?

The local scene here in L.A. is OK,it's getting better I guess you could say. But there's a lot of competition that isn't needed. There are some really cool bands and my favourite band out of all the L.A. bands right now would have to be EXCEL,Dan & the boys rule. Check 'em out,they're a real good band and they're real cool people and they're very under-rated,they're the underdogs right now but I think with a lot more help they're gonna get real known. And their new demo kills!

Ragin' Violence

HIRAX

BANG TILL YOU BLEED "POSERS WILL BE EXECUTED"

TELL US ABOUT THE ALBUM.

OK,the album...14 songs,pretty fast,it's not as fast as we are live but that happens all the time with all bands. It's still pretty fast and it's fuckin' heavy as hell. We got real good production on it,Bill Metoyer was real fun to work with,even though he didn't like our sense of humour at times..and stuff like that,but that's how it goes. It's real heavy...I wanted a heavy sound,I hate it when bands go into the studio and they come out sounding tinny. I think the next album's gonna be a lot better but that's what all bands always say y'know...but I really feel that way...because there's gonna be a lot more intense shit on it,and y'know a lot of bands change totally, I mean we're gonna change,but what we're gonna do by changing is just get faster and heavier. We're not gonna totally get all technical and have a chorus here and melody there,it's gonna be HIRAX.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF SUNDAY MORNING CARTOONS?

Some of 'em rage,some of 'em are real bad-ass. Bugs Bunny still kills. I love Donald Duck,I dunno why,he fuckin' rules big-time supreme. But some of them are getting too technical, like a lot of bands' music,the newer ones,they're so technical and they're getting wimpy,there's ones about these monsters from the universe and shit - who gives a fuck? In cartoons, the comedy is what rules,cos fuckin' Daffy Duck and people like that rule,they're god y'know. The Roadrunner fuckin' kicks ass! That's a good question man,I haven't been asked something like that in a while.

TELL US ABOUT THE ALBUM-COVER.

I hate to slag the guy who's doing it but it kinda makes me mad when you have a date when you're supposed to be getting the cover and it doesn't arrive. It's turning into like the thing that happened with C.O.C.,their cover was supposed to be so many months ahead of time and it got there 3 months later. Anyways the album cover's being done by Pushead,it's not here yet so I really don't know what it looks like...I suppose it'll be a real good cover,hopefully it will because we want the music and the cover to live up to both,we want both of 'em to be good....I think it'll be a good one,the idea he has for it is real good but I won't tell you about that (not that it matters seeing as the album has already been released - Bill). The cover should be really different,especially for a band like us cos so many bands have the same old 'macho' covers.

DO YOU THINK YOUR LYRICS LEAN TOWARDS HARDCORE?

I have to admit y'know...even in the early days of our writing it's always been more about things that deal with life and shit like that. I mean once in a while I'll trip off into the evil side but not praising it,it's just that I like it,it intrigues me. Yeah I gotta admit our lyrics are more often on the Hardcore side,but like even some of the guys that are involved with us sometimes really don't know that much about our music or lyrics,some of the Hardcore people go:"Well you guys are too violent". But they don't know that we don't praise violence,we just write about it,we're not praising it. Bob from Toxic Shock thought we were totally violent when he first met us, but after he found out what we were writing about which was basically horror movies and stuff like that,he figured we weren't praising people to come to shows and kill each other, we just wanted to thrash and come home feeling good.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE TOPICS YOU WRITE ABOUT?

Of course the old topic,nuclear war,cos nobody can keep that off their mind. Nuclear war is definitely one of the things I like writing about. In fact a song called "Lightning Thunder" that's not on the album is about "Threads"...that was made in England wasn't it? And of course death,y'know death's part of life...I gotta admit a lot of it goes towards the violent side but we're not praising violence,it's just about everyday life y'know everybody watches the news and sees all the bad things that are in life,so I you can't get around it,you have to write about it to tell people that if we don't correct these things it's gonna get fuckin' worse. And that's why I think attitude-wise we're more Hardcore because a lot of the Hardcore bands write about the same stuff except...one thing I know for a fact is we're a not a political band and we never will be because I don't care for that stuff.... some people do,I hope they're not getting offended by me saying this but I don't have no time for that political bull-shit,I think that's for old men with fuckin' 3-piece suits. Like I said,I'm not trying to offend anybody,but I'm not into the political side of the thing. I mean there are enough problems as it is,why do we need to keep bugging ourselves with that type of thing?

THRASHING METAL

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF SLAYER???

OK,this is a very touchy subject as people know me and Kerry aren't too friendly. But,er....as a band I gotta admit they're a good unit. But I gotta admit as they claim they are,they're not the fastest and the heaviest,but they are one of the fastest and heaviest bands. Especially after hearing what Kerry's been saying,I can't really see that band staying too much more Hardcore because the way he was talking,he's saying that Thrash is dead,which is a lot of bullshit because if Thrash was so dead we wouldn't be doing what we're doing. So,I can see them getting lighter to tell you the truth,I can see them probably even going in the Metallica vein.

IS THE ANTI-CHRIST HERE?

WARGOD

Here's an interview with Greg Gunthner of WARGOD, one of L.A.'s best bands. I'm afraid that Ken Owen, our interviewer, got a bit carried away at times..... read the questions and see what I mean! You'll find the WARGOD address in the tape review section

OK GREG, WHO'S IN THE BAND?

GREG: Rob Perkins - vocals, Phil Williams - guitars, Michelle Meldrum - guitars (yes, a female!), Greg Gunthner - bass, Lee Rauch - drums. (Gene Hoglan - drums on 1st demo).

WHY DID YOU RECRUIT LEE RAUCH? WHAT QUALITIES IN HIM DO YOU LIKE?

GREG: We got Lee because we had heard live tapes of him when he was with Megadeth, and thought he was excellent. Gene was just a session drummer and we needed someone permanent. Rob knew Lee for a while, so we contacted him and things have been working out great. Lee is a very technical drummer and fits perfectly in WARGOD.

IT'S OBVIOUS FROM YOUR DEMO THAT YOU'RE INFLUENCED BY DARK ANGEL AND SLAYER. WHAT OTHER BANDS INFLUENCE YOU?

GREG: Our new material has more early Megadeth influence than anything. We don't think our songs have any Dark Angel influence (we don't like being compared to them really). Slayer has also been a great influence.

YOU SAID TO ME THAT YOUR NEW SHALL BE OUT SOON, BUT WHAT'S THE NEW MATERIAL GOING TO BE LIKE???

GREG: Due to delays, we probably won't start recording our 2nd demo until early December. The new songs are much more technical, and more involved. There's going to be a lot more time put into it.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY RECORD COMPANY INTEREST?

GREG: We haven't had any record company interest. But that's alright, with the next demo I think we'll be able to get a good contract.

YOUR LYRICS SEEM TO AVOID THE SATANIC SIDE OF METAL. WHY HAVEN'T YOU CHOSEN THIS POPULAR IMAGE?

GREG: Satanism isn't our thing. We like our songs to express something real rather than Satanism which has been overdone. It's just not WARGOD.

ROB: Since I write all the lyrics I have my own religious beliefs. Therefore I don't praise Satan lyrically - besides Satanism has become very trendy.

HOW HAS THE RESPONSE BEEN TO YOUR GIGS AND YOUR DEMO?

The crowds in L.A. are pretty good. As in every crowd there's your share of posers. But you learn to live with it. The crowds really rage down here - especially for Hirax and Slayer. WARGOD has only had one live gig (which was pretty bad - lots of sound problems) so it's hard to judge what fans think of WARGOD (live that is); but we've had an overall good response about the demo.

SO...HOW LOUD DO YOU PLAY?

GREG: I have no idea!!?!!?

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE SCENE IN CALIFORNIA?

GREG: The scene in California (L.A.) is pretty good, we have our share of gigs. I'd like to see more Hardcore shows though (wouldn't we all - Ken). But the clubs are stick strict and limit the crowd to their thrashing, except for Fenders, that place kills!!

I SEE THAT YOU HATE POSERS: WELL IF ONE WALKED IN THE ROOM NOW, HOW LONG WOULD YOU HANG HIM BY ONE ARM, PUT HIS FEET IN A MINCER WITH HOOKS PIERCED THROUGH HIS BALLS?

GREG: Eternally.....

DOES YOU AGREE THAT PEOPLE IN THE U.S. SEEM TO BE ABLE TO LIKE WHAT MUSIC THEY WANT TO, WITHOUT HASSLE?

GREG: Certainly, music is up to the listener's choice here in the U.S.

AMERICANS HAVE A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING THAN BRITONS - IS EVERYONE RICH? HOW DO YOU LIVE AND BUY EQUIPMENT?

GREG: Not everyone is rich, most people are just middle-classed. Jobs are fairly easy to get, as is equipment. I'd say the majority of people into Thrash Metal are middle-classed though.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE WARGOD TRACKS?

GREG: "Burning Insanity", "Into The Abyss".....and "Intimate With Death".

WHY DID GENE HOGLAND LEAVE THE BAND TO JOIN DARK ANGEL?

GREG: Because Dark Angel was more well-known in the scene than WARGOD was. Also he didn't think WARGOD was going anywhere. Well, I know that statement isn't true.

IF THERE'S ONE THING YOU'D LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH WARGOD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

GREG: To write good technical songs, stay very tight, and become successful without comprimising in style.

WHAT THINGS ARE STOPPING YOU?

GREG: Nothing, really.

WHICH GROUPS WOULD YOU HAVE DISMEMBERED FOR GIVING REAL METAL AN IMAGE OF POSERS WHO DRESS IN WOMEN'S CLOTHES?

GREG: ????....too many to name.

WHEN & WHERE WILL YOU TOUR?

GREG: We'll probably have an extensive tour once we get an album contract. For now we just want to play the L.A. circuit and possibly San Francisco.

...WHAT ABOUT EUROPE LATER?

GREG: Europe would be nice, but it's too far in the future.

GREG, THANKS FOR YOUR TIME. ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANNA SAY?

GREG: Thanks for the interview. Special thanx to Ken Owen and Bill of PHOENIX MILITIA. Sanity will burn.....

MANNSLAUGHTER

MANNSLAUGHTER were formed in 1983 as a Saxon/Judas Priest cover band. The original 5-piece line-up was trimmed down to the present trio:- Jeff Mann: drums/vocals, Brian Mann: guitar, John Hamilton: bass (who replaces Mike Lanning, the bass-player on the demo). At the time of typing, the band only have one demo available, but according to Jeff; "We'll be sending out a bigger, heavier, faster, louder, more headthrashin' demo in a few months. Songs like "Evil", "Virgin Sacrifice" and "Exodus Into Hell" are gonna leave you in a pool of poser blood."

Jeff continues, "...our following is small but growing. We're the only REAL METAL band in town, and fucking proud of it!! The local groups all play covers (Ratt, Motley Crue, Van Halen etc.) TOTALLY WIMPY! Our stage show is totally over the top. We describe it like this: A NUCLEAR BOMB BEING DETONATED ON YOUR FACE - A HOLOCAUST SO DEVASTATING IT LEAVES YOUR SHADOW BURNED INTO THE GROUND. Neat, eh?!"

"Gigs are hard to get, but we can sometimes put on our big show at parties and such. We've opened up for several other bands, and we always kill 'em! We dress in leather & spikes onstage (we believe in Heavy Metal tradition, plus it looks kick-ass!) and we headbang more than the kids in the front row. Our fans are mostly young like us, but that's good cuz our following can grow along with us, instead of out-growing us."

"Our main influences are Exciter, Manowar and Metallica, with Maiden & Priest tossed in. Dan Beehler is my hero! (Guess why!)"

The 1st MANNSLAUGHTER demo is featured in the tape review section, along with their address. But before I finish, sink your teeth into this!!!!.... "Our mission of Metal will never end. Our total dedication to the cause of THRASH will last until the day we die.....We will never die. We are MANNSLAUGHTER. Vengeance will be ours." All I can say is....it sure is nice to have modest, humble bands like MANNSLAUGHTER around....innit???

(BILL '85)

Does VOIVOD really need an introduction? NO.....but I guess I'd better give 'em one anyway. Surely everyone must have VOIVOD's classic "War & Pain" LP by now,with its raw production and awesome power it proved to be one of the best Thrash LP's ever. But that was released back in 1984 - what's happened since then? Well,not a whole lot really....they've done a few gigs but that's basically all. Their "RRRROOAAARRRR" LP has been massively delayed (due to legal hassles with Banzai Records,or so I was told) but it will finally come out some time in the early months of '86. The following interview was done by mail in the latter half of 1985,and Paul asked the questions (that's why they're so boring). YOU MAY READ ON.....

VOIVOD,seen here demonstrating the highly-refined manners that they are reknowned for. l-r:-Away (drums),Blacky (bass),Snake (voice), and not forgetting Piggy (guitar).

WHEN DID VOIVOD FORM??? (y-a-w-n!!!)

PIGGY: We are friends since a long time before VOIVOD but we decide to make it in November '82.

ANY FAV. BANDS OR INFLUENCES???

PIGGY: We listen to bands like SLAYER, DESTRUCTION,EXODUS...mostly young and Real Metal bands. Some hardcore,also we are influenced by blood,fight,weapons,life experience....

YOUR LP HASN'T GOT THE BEST PRODUCTION,BUT IT GIVES YOU A RAW & POWERFUL SOUND. WAS THIS INTENTIONAL???

PIGGY: We didn't know how the album will be when we record it...it was our first studio experience and we worked with people who never work with Metal bands. So,we can say that we did it by ourselves.

A LOT OF BANDS SING ABOUT SATAN AND STUFF LIKE THAT. YOU SING ABOUT WAR....WHY???

PIGGY: Because we are real fascinated by weapons and war equipment. We didn't think about it too much in the beginning but we are glad that our lyrics are different than other bands.

WHY DIDN'T YOU PLAY WITH VENOM IN CANADA???

PIGGY: We didn't play with VENOM in Canada cause we have some problems with the guy who booked mostly Metal bands from outside Canada... ..about Venom,we like their "Black Metal" album but,we were very disappointed by their Montreal (Canada) concert....

WHAT'S THE CANADIAN METAL SCENE LIKE???

PIGGY: The Metal scene is growing in Canada. But we had difficulties to have gigs cause like I said,the main Metal booker in Canada hates us. But there is new guys who really work well and they surely take the place in near future and we work with them at this time.

DID YOU RECEIVE A LOT OF MAIL AFTER THE RELEASE OF YOUR DEBUT LP???

PIGGY: Yeah,we have real big mail from California USA,New York USA,Chicago USA,Germany but we don't have so much mail from Europe...probably cause there is no address and no photos in the Roadrunner copy of "War & Pain".

HAS THE ALBUM BEEN SELLING WELL???

PIGGY: We don't know exactly at this time. It should be about 60,00 LP's.

DO YOU HAVE A LARGE CANADIAN FOLLOWING???

PIGGY: Our following is really growing fast here. All our fans are real. We are really happy about that...

HAVE METAL BLADE GIVEN YOU A GOOD DEAL???

PIGGY: I can't talk about it for this time cause we negociate with Metal Blade at this time...

WAS IT HARD TO MAKE "WAR & PAIN" AVAILABLE OVER HERE???

PIGGY: Metal Blade did a really good job in this case. "War & Pain" is well-distributed and all the world's real Metal elite know VOIVOD.

WHAT DOES "VOIVOD" MEAN???

PIGGY: VOIVODs were an old barbaric people from the extreme north of Europe (we saw it in history books), they conquest towns and countries and drank the blood of their victims in glasses. We had adapted this theme with our contemporary time. So the VOIVOD you saw on our cover have really good war equipment to do his job.

WHAT'S THE SONG "BLOWER" ABOUT???

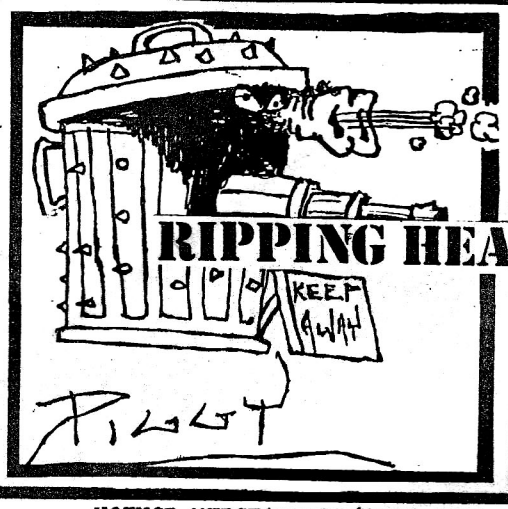
PIGGY: It's a song about a snow blower. We live in a country where it has a real big snow in Winter. So the cities had equipment to have the snow from the streets and the snow blower is one of them. We heard many times about children who were eaten by the Blower when they play in the snow.....

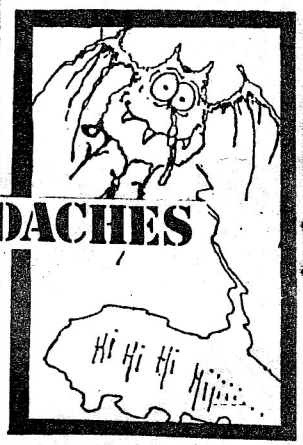
HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANY LINE-UP CHANGES???

PIGGY: NO...

ANY LAST WORDS???

PIGGY: We'll begin to record our new album in September and it will be really better than all we done before so,look forward at our "RRRROOOAAARRRR" album....





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fuck OFF AND DIE!

HELLOWEEN are a 4-piece Power Metal band from Hamburg in West Germany. I expect some of you will have already come across the band due to their debut mini-LP which was released in April 1985, or perhaps their 2 tracks which were featured on Noise Records' "Death Metal" compilation album. HELLOWEEN originated back in 1978 in the form of Gentry (which contained guitarist Kai Hansen),and the 4 band members came together through various other groups,such as Second Hell,Powerfool and Iron Fist. HELLOWEEN's line-up consists of:-
Kai Hansen - guitar/vocals
Michael Weikath - guitar
Markus Grobkopf - bass
Ingo Schwichtenberg - drums.
Anyway,that's enough of the boring history stuff. I sent some questions to Kai Hansen over a year ago,but the interview was not returned as HELLOWEEN had not sorted out their info,photos etc. Then,a few months ago,the band sent me loads of info plus that interview which is of course rather out-of-date now...but I still think it's worth printing.

WERE YOU PLEASED BY THE METAL FORCES REVIEW?

Michael: The review published in Metal Forces is great,we are very pleased and impressed that Metal Forces dares to predict us a worldwide career at this very early point of time,the content of this prediction is exactly our aim and we are very very thankful for the degree of trust a mag like Metal Forces summons up for our musical work and for the support we have obtained by them. First we could hardly believe our eyes!

HOW MANY SONGS DO YOU HAVE NOW,AND PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT THEM.

Michael: Until now we have about 15 songs ready and 4 in work;this may sound little but these tracks are more or less long in time and as a result of the new HELLOWEEN concept most of the older or bad songs have been thrown out of our program so that we have place for new and skillful material according to our musical experience of today. Our songs are about society,against war and violence (even if some people don't like to read that) and other conditions and situations you get in touch with for example on the loo,at underground,on bus,in a car or during an alcoholic delusion. We try to step into someone's shoes like on "Murderer" describing the situation of a man who killed mistakenly or on "Starlight",a song about somebody playing with drugs. Nevertheless we think our songs are stupid and lousy...

WHO WRITES THE SONGS FOR HELLOWEEN?

Michael: Kai and me have been writing all our songs until now but Ingo and Markus always took part in leading a song to perfection. Each of us has got the same level, ambition and feeling for our way of Power Metal,so fortunately every new song is ready for stage within short,but as we want to be more than just another Heavy Metal band,it takes a little time elaborating basic themes and melodies for a new song;we don't want to waste our time on riffs and tone sequences played elsewhere by other groups.

HELLOWEEN.....

(left to right)
Michael Weikath
Kai Hansen
Ingo Schwichtenberg
Markus Grobkopf

WILL YOU BE RELEASING A FULL ALBUM ON NOISE RECORDS?

Michael: Early April a 5-track mini-album has been published on Noise Records,as you may know,containing "Starlight", "Murderer","Warrior","Victim Of Fate" and "Cry For Freedom". Another full length album is to follow soon in October '85 and we hope it will be well for some surprise,because we will spend much care on collecting the tracks. In April '85 a compilation album called "Metal Attack Vol.1" incl. a remixed version of "Murderer" has been released with Noise bands exceptionally presented by the German magazine "Metal Hammer" in collaboration with Noise Records!

HAVE YOU READ WHAT KERRANG SAID ABOUT YOU IN THEIR REVIEW OF "DEATH METAL"?

Michael: We don't like this recension either but I believe good Paul Suter doesn't like real Heavy Metal at all. I suppose he rather wants to hear bands like Vandenberg, Nightranger,Lionheart than Judas Priest,Maiden,Accept, Exciter and for example Running Wild or HELLOWEEN but if so he musn't write a review about the "Death Metal" sampler. Just imagine:the poor guy is the only one having given bad criticism on HELLOWEEN and everybody I've met declared him mad,but I think it's all a matter of taste,isn't it?

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE?

Michael: First of all we furtheron would like to please our fans who like our style of Metal. We don't want to go commercial or become a good-started-Heavy Metal-but-bad-ending-Mainstream group like so many others. We wish Heavy Metal to be the music heard most on earth and all Discofuck away together with their stupid followers,so that Heavy Rock commands the charts again. We for ourselves would like to take our music for profession to be really sure,cause crawling before some fucking boss is no insurance at all - everybody whose father has been fired at age 55 knows that; therefore we were very happy if Metal Forces was right...

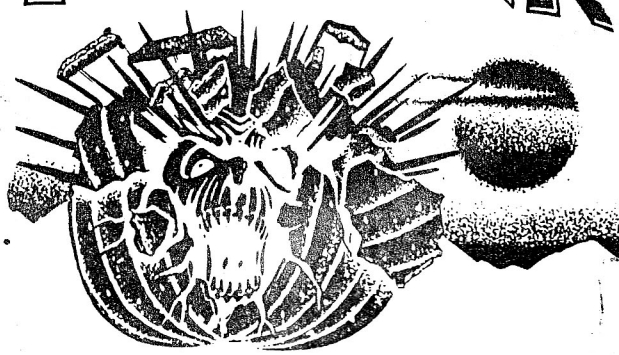
WHAT IS THE SONG "OERNST OF LIFE" ABOUT?

Michael: People very often asked about that. Obviously Paul Suter of Kerrang has got problems too in understanding the song. It's about unemployment. Usually to be unemployed means great depression for someone affected by this,and he is worked on by everybody to get a job. I've written this song because I've been nerved by my family and friends. You can neither wake up nor fall asleep peacefully. It's the same in your country isn't it? You know I want to be neither an engineer,an insurance-jumping jack,a bank employee nor at least general;I just want to be a musician,but society of today is built up on that professions just mentioned and nobody will be offered a profession to become HM-guitarist. You've got to do that all by yourself. And if you do that you're not able to see how things will turn out in the future. All a musician can do is playin' well or writing good songs in order to survive or to save his mind. I don't want to sit in a chair watching TV with 30 kids and one slut around me knitting for another spauller. Excuse my words,but that's life state wants to sell you for the best thing in the world. If you don't want to live that way you are supposed to end in the gutter,the so-called dead end street of human existence. Such stranded people then hang around at underground stations over here in Hamburg. The title itself is a transmogrification of the word "ernest" (=seriousness). German spoken it means "Ernst des Lebens";it was a joke - never had we thought of "Oernst Of Life" becoming that popular!

WHAT IS THE METAL SCENE LIKE HAMBURG? DO YOU HAVE MANY FANS IN GERMANY?

Michael: The Metal scene in Hamburg is quite well,I think the last bigger coherent bastion before one is coming down to the middle and southern parts of Germany neglected by official radio or TV stations and lacking suitable institutions. Generally I hear almost all communications systems snoring deeply concrening Heavy Metal except exemplary magazines like Metal Hammer, Desaster,Rock Hard or simply the BFBS HM-show,but that's all. That doesn't mean our Metal freaks are sleepy! Although I hear complaints of contact difficulties beyond the Metal scene in the south they're all real and some of the best thrashers in the world fighting for acknowledgement. We're all one! Second part of your question:we have received very good and vast reactions on the "Death Metal" sampler and some letters permitted us an impression of several villages helloween-ized - a tour over Germany is provided for the near future and we'll see what's true and what invented...

HELLOWEEN

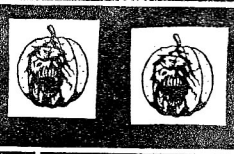


...ANYTHING ELSE IMPORTANT THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SAY???

Michael: No more information except I've been sitting over this interview about 5 hours so that I'm totally exhausted by your good'n'heavy questions! "PHOENIX MILITIA" has managed to kill me!! It's 6.30 a.m. now and I shall fall asleep,dreaming of all people who like HELLOWEEN. From between the feathers my best wishes to all the readers of "PHOENIX MILITIA",thanx for this interview and for bearing my terrible English;HELLOWEEN would like to shake claws with all Metal beasts and thrashers in the world,maybe after the show,we hope. Don't forget: Metal is the best and here to stay!!

WHO ARE YOUR PERSONAL INFLUENCES AS A GUITARIST?

Michael: Arrggh - another difficult question...I know Kai sucks up Randy Rhoads, Jake E. Lee,Glenn Tipton & K.K. Downing and some guys like Mantas,but also Michael Schenker - ah,he says everyone who is a beast on the guitar. My favourites are the same. Yes,really!



Power Metal

CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER-"Life In Grave"

This is what we want!!!! Well this is what I want anyway...as the band say: "If you crave fast, heavy,disgusting noise that melts your brain,you cannot die without this tape". I couldn't agree more. The "Life In Grave" demo was recorded in the early months of 1985, yet it's still LETHAL and is a must for all Hardcore Thrashers. Watch out for their forthcoming debut LP on Death Records.

CRYPTIC SLAUGHTER,c/o Les Evans, 1130 Chelsea Avenue,Santa Monica, CA 90403,U.S.A.

SAMHAIN-(Denmark) demo

The band everyone's talking about?? Not quite,but they are gaining popularity with many Death Metallers the world over... and it seems that they're tipped for success by almost everyone who's heard them - not to mention the fact that they have an LP in the works,with distribution in Europe,USA & Japan. What I want to know is why?

I mean,they're alright to listen to but they're hardly what I'd call inspiring. Their music sounds too doomy and pretentious (a la Celtic Frosties) for my liking,and when they do go fast they come across as being untight. I've heard many bands worse than SAMHAIN,but they're still very average.

SAMHAIN,c/o Henk Leviathan, Sejrs Alle 49,8240 Risskov, Denmark.

DECAPITATION-"Killing The Innocent" demo

Utter brilliance!! DECAPITATION are the sort of band that you either love or hate,I expect that most people will hate 'em but the sickos among you should find their music EXTREMELY enjoyable.

What we have here are 8 tracks of pure Death Metal that sounds similar to a cross between DEATH and OUTO (i.e. EXCELLENT). It's very fast,very heavy and nasty as hell,with vocals that sound more like a demented Alsatian than a human singer. Hey,don't start getting the idea that I don't like the vocals,cos I love them!!!

Songs (??) like "Bodily Dismemberment","Let The Killing Begin" and "Homicide" will have all you Hardcore Thrashers smashing your heads against walls in no time, so I'd advise you to send off for the DECAPITATION demo immediately, especially as their 2nd release will feature a change in style - as they intend to get more technical,like DESTRUCTION on 45.

DECAPITATION,c/o Steve Resnick, 4705 Browndeer Lane,Rolling Hills Estates,CA 90274,U.S.A.

TANKARD-"Alcoholic Metal" demo

Despite the title,there's no evidence of drunkeness in TANKARD-'s music. They're not Death Metal but they're not shit either...I'd class them in the same league as Motorhead - not exactly my cup of tea but it might be yours!

TANKARD,c/o Andreas Geremia, Durkheimer Str.80,6230 Frankfurt/M.80,West Germany.
(see feature for price details).

"THE WILD BUNCH" (VARIOUS ARTISTS)

This is a compilation album that is only available on cassette. It features a wide variety of bands, from POSSESSED to Lee Aaron! Some of the tracks are really good,but most are just plain shit. Apart from the groups mentioned above, this tape contains:Q5,Raven,Shok Paris,Agent Steel,Castle Blak, Laaz Rockit,Anthrax,Black Lace, Lizzy Borden,Grim Reaper,Megadeth, Antix,Jag Panzer,Teeze,Abattoir, and Slayer. For those of you who have a wide taste in Metal/Rock.

ROIR CASSETTES,611 Broadway, Suite 725,New York City,NY 10012, U.S.A.

SLAUGHTER-"Surrender Or Die" demo

Blistering Hardcore Thrash from Canada...sort of like HELLHAMMER but with a large Hardcore influence. There's fair amount of variety in the vocal department, as SLAUGHTER have two vocalists - one sounds like your typical Death Metal "singer",the other is reminiscent of the fella in DR. KNOW. Apparently they have an LP due out very soon,and if this tape is anything to go by then it'll be devastating. Check out "Disintegrator","Death Dealer", "One Foot In A Grave","Strappado" and the brilliant cover of HELLHAMMER's "Massacra",to name just a few of the killer songs on this demo.

SLAUGHTER,c/o Dave Hewson, 22 Avonmore Square,Scarborough, Ont. M1E 1C9,CANADA.

MASTER-"Fuckin Death" demo & LP advance tracks

AAAAAAARRRRGGGGGHHHHHHH!!!!!!! "Fuckin Death" = fuckin excellent. This demo was recorded under their old name,DEATHSTRIKE,and contains four songs:"The Truth", "Mangled Dehumanization","Re-entry & Destruction" and "Pay To Die", all of which totally kill (and I mean KILL!!). This was the very ultimate in heaviness as far as I was concerned,until I clapped ears on five tracks from their forthcoming album...where they had managed to obtain a sound that was even heavier. What's more,they'd gotten faster too!! I'm dying to hear the full LP on vinyl because it will no doubt become a landmark in the history of Death Metal - yeah,I know,I'm raving again,but can you blame me? Cuts like "Unknown Soldier" and "Funeral Bitch" make me wanna have a slamming competition with the cat,but somehow I don't think he'd enjoy it.

Watch out for MASTER in their quest to create "Mangled Dehumanization" throughout the world. Nothing can stop them.

MASTER,c/o Ted Domurat,3927 N.Ottawa,Chicago,Illinois 60634, U.S.A.

SCHIZO-"Thrash The Unthrashable, Thrash To Kill" demo

Like a lot of demos these days, this tape suffers from a very weak production that leaves the band sounding mediocre. Actually,SCHIZO have to be one of the best Italian Hardcore Metal bands I've heard - but that's not saying much! Out of the 6 tracks on this demo,the first 3 are the best,and they show that SCHIZO have a fair amount of potential. So if you're the advent-urous type then why not check this band out for yourself?

SCHIZO,c/o Alberto Penzin,Via Carnazza,La Terrazze Pal.11,95125 Catania,Italy.

PREDATOR-"Easy Prey" demo for LP

What we have here are four advance tracks from PREDATOR's "Easy Prey" album,which should be out by now on the Ripper/Ironworks label. There is no way that their music could be described as wimpy, even though they come nowhere being Thrash....so I'd only really recommend them to people who are into the Iron Maiden school of Metal. I find it impossible to slag this band - they're really good musicians,they play together well as a unit,they definitely aren't following any of the latest "trends" - yeah,to be honest,I think they're a great band.

PREDATOR,c/o Jeff Prentice, 1012 Bayview Drive,Hermosa Beach, CA 90254,U.S.A.

MANNSLAUGHTER-demo

These two tracks are good,but nothing special - mainly because of the terrible production. If MANNSLAUGHTER can get faster and more aggressive,with a better production,then they could be worth checking out.

MANNSLAUGHTER,7292 Lakeshore Road,Clay,N.Y. 13041,U.S.A.

MANIA-"Break The Silence" demo

It beats me why MANIA bothered sending this to me,cos it's a waste of their money as well as my time. But a review is what they wanted so a review is what they'll get.....OK,I hate this, it's pure "Friday Rock Show" material - i.e.commercial Metal/Rock for people who like bland, lethargic pap. DON'T WRITE TO:-

M.DANKER,Alte Dorfstr.18,2000 Hamburg 65,West Germany.

EXCEL-"Personal Onslaught" demo

EXCEL are what you might call a Speed Metal band with Hardcore attitudes. Unlike most Hardcore Metal bands,EXCEL's lyrics deal with more down-to-earth topics,as shown by songs like "Split Image" and "Insecurity". I like most of the music on this demo,especially the riffing and time-changes,but I'm not too keen on the vocals.

Not so long ago I got hold of some brand new EXCEL studio tracks - I've no idea whether they're gonna be released on vinyl or as a demo - they're great,even more complex and technichal than the "P.O."demo. As for the vocals,well they are improved - at least the voice doesn't constantly follow the riff as on previous material.

EXCEL,P.O. Box 5372,Venice, CA 90296,U.S.A.

HALLOWS EVE

interview by Scott Givens

HALLOW'S EVE hail from Atlanta,Georgia and are definitely one of the best bands to release a debut album in 1985. They combine speed,with power and superb musicianship to create a totally unique and original-sounding band.

Recently,before the band embarked on a tour of the mid-west and eastern U.S. with fellow ragers Nasty Savage,Tommy Stewart was kind enough to take time and answer a few questions for me.

****

WHAT IS THE CURRENT LINE-UP?
TOMMY: Stacy Anderson on vocals,David Stuart on guitar,Tym Helton on drums and me on bass.

HAVE YOU ADDED A NEW GUITARIST?
TOMMY: When Skellator left we decided not to replace him unless someone who was compatible became interested. I had originally wanted only one guitarist,but if someone came along we wouldn't be opposed. We sound fine as we are.

WHY DID RONNIE LEAVE THE BAND?
TOMMY: I don't know,but we weren't unhappy to have Tym back!

WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE PLANS FOR THE BAND?
TOMMY: We are preparing to do our second album with Metal Blade Records with song-titles like "Nefarious","Suicide" and "Lethal Tendencies". We already play most of the new material live.

ARE YOU PLEASED WITH METAL BLADE RECORDS? IS BRIAN SLAGEL EASY TO WORK WITH?
TOMMY: Brian has been good to us and I don't see why we shouldn't do another album with him.

HOW WAS THE THRASH FESTIVAL IN MONTREAL?
TOMMY: It was great!! Hopefully more promoters will put on shows such as that one! There were 2,000 people there which was great for Montreal as I understood it. We did TV interviews,lots of press,and had a good time. Montreal was good to us.

DO YOU HOPE TO GET TO EUROPE SOON?
TOMMY: Yeah,I hope so because we have a stronger following there than in the U.S. I believe.

WHAT IS THE SCENE LIKE IN YOUR AREA?
TOMMY: It used to be nothing but it has started to come around. There are a few bands starting up and we play here on a regular basis so people are really getting together finally. Of course half of our audience is punk so when we play you get a variety of thrashers,divers and skinheads!

****

I urge all of you who get the chance to go and see HALLOW'S EVE live. I saw them in Baltimore and they destroyed the club they were playing at. At the moment they are looking for a studio and then they will record the next album and tour.

Formed in 1980 by guitarist Bernard Rive,from the start SAD IRON have always played a fast and destructive style of Metal.

Their first success was their appearance on the "Holland Heavy Metal" live compilation album in 1982. The album sold about 4000 copies worldwide,but due to the extremely bad production the band wasn't really content with it.

So with an almost completely new line-up,SAD IRON recorded their first album,"Total Damnation",which was released by Universe Records in October '83. One week after the release of the LP,they played at a festival in front of a crowd of 900 crazed maniacs,and blew headliners Bodine and Trance (puke) off the stage.

"Total Damnation" sold even better than "H.H.M." and the band gained a large amount of fans,especially in the U.S.A. Although the album was well-received everywhere,it lacks the power of a SAD IRON live gig,which is really something special.

Since their formation,they became faster and heavier with every gig,so don't judge them on their previous material. New songs like "Powerthrash","Where War Winds Blow","Live Like A Rat","Posers" and "Days Of Doom" are pure mayhem,they blow the shit out of "Total Damnation"!!!

SAD IRON have recently been negociating with Mausoleum Records for the release of their second LP,"The Antichrist", which will be out by the time you read this. There is also a possibility that "Total Damnation" will be re-recorded for release by Metal Blade.

(ALCO PATER '85)

A later episode in the SAD IRON saga is their problem with drummers - they keep losing them! Their last drummer had to leave them as he was offered to join a pop group!!?! So obviously they've had to find a new skin-basher to replace the previous ~~wimp~~ guy. Anyway,if you want more info on the band or just merchandise,then write (enclosing an I.R.C.) to:-

SAD IRON FORCE,Europalaan,8442 GL Heerenveen,Holland.

LIVE LIKE A RAT!

SAD IRON—dutch power metal

Los Angeles has long been associated with posers & wimp 'metal',but over the last year or so loads of Death Metal bands have sprung up,such as Cryptic Slaughter,Wargod & Excel to name just three. One LA band that has been around for quite a while is DARK ANGEL. Their "We Have Arrived" LP got an excellent response world-wide,even though it was recorded ages ago with their old drummer (Jack Schwartz) who didn't like playing fast. I have heard some of DARK ANGEL's newer material and I can safely say that it burns. Here is an interview with DARK ANGEL's drummer Gene Hoglan,done by Vadim Rubin on 9th August 1985. Thanks a lot Vadim!!!

WHAT'S THE L.A. SCENE LIKE

I saw 'Frisco last year and it was a lotta fun but LA is fine with me,it's great. There's nothing wrong with LA,y'know there are a bunch of posers,but posers don't come to DARK ANGEL shows.

WHAT ABOUT THE CLUBS?

The clubs suck. There's Radio City in Anaheim,they don't let you thrash..... Country Club,real nice place,it sucks - they won't let you thrash,they try to 'do' you out of payment at the end of the night. The Troubadour was cool, they would let everybody thrash. The best places to play are halls,they're in absence of security so they just let you become a 'homo' all over your friends!!!! Last week I was yelling at the crowd;"You guys are always jumping and climbing all over each other,what are ya,a bunch of homos?!"

WHAT ARE THE L.A. CROWDS LIKE? I'VE HEARD IT'S MUCH WILDER IN S.F.....

It seems like the only way you're gonna draw in SF is if you're Exodus. I went to see Exodus,Slayer and Possessed in Ruthies and the place wasn't 'jam-packed' with thrashers... y'know LA's fine,it's not any better or worse. There's Ruthies out there where they let you thrash and there's Radio City out here where they don't. And there's not a lot of places to play around here,and the few places there are don't really let you get wild,but people don't care anyway...we've closed down clubs where nobody will ever play again... ..like that Club 47 place I was screaming to everybody to riot and everybody was jumping on the stage,and the security was getting pretty pissed. There was 10 security people and 200 thrashers that wanted some blood. By the end of the night, the cops came and closed us down....Savage Grace didn't even get up on stage that night

WHY WAS JACK SCHWARTZ KNOWN AS JACK "WE'RE NOT A SPEED METAL BAND" SCHWARTZ???

The guy was anti-Speed Metal,he just sucked. He was always telling everybody,"we don't play Thrash Metal" and "don't expect us to play this kind of music for too long because we're better than Thrash Metal" and "Thrash Metal sucks and Slayer sucks but Anthrax and Abattoir are cool". The band was all into POSSESSED and he was into Anthrax...so they just said "Jack,why don't you die". Besides,he smelled real bad too!!!! He didn't even know he was kicked out until the day before my first show with the band....he sucks.....

HOW COME LEE RAUCH DIDN'T WORK OUT IN THE BAND?

I don't know,I thought Lee was god,he was the ultimate but I guess the reasons were that he couldn't play fast enough. When they got rid of Jack they wanted to go faster. Lee wasn't exactly the fastest drummer in the world,he's real powerful but I guess maybe Lee should stick to,y'know, the Megadeth/Exciter-type double-bass stuff. I saw the video of Megadeth and I thought he killed but with Dark Angel he was obviously much better than Jack but....I guess he just couldn't play fast enough.

IS GENE,THE NEW DRUMMER, FITTING IN WELL?

I'm fitting in excellently !!! No actually Gene sucks he can't play his drums either but he's got money and he's got a truck to haul all the equipment around! No,the band seems to be very happy with me and I'm very happy with the band. I like Dark Angel a lot,I liked 'em before I joined 'em. I think the band's fitting into Gene pretty well! Gene's happy so he's not gonna kick out the rest of the band!

aaarrrgggghhhh!

Cont'd

HOW LONG DID "WE HAVE ARRIVED" TAKE TO RECORD?
About,I suppose,a month or two. It wasn't the best quality,it was solid though - it's standard Metal production. It didn't take too long.

HAS THE ALBUM BEEN SELLING WELL?
Yeah it's been selling decent,y'know it's not gonna rival 'prince' or 'madonna' but it's selling pretty well. I've seen albums sell worse,like the Butthole Surfers! I guess it's maybe even up to 15000 in Europe. We were no.3 on Kerrang's list of imports,that's not necessarily an official chart but it kinda lets you know what's going on. I talked to Danny the drummer from Abattoir last week and he told me that we were no.5 on the list of the 50 biggest-selling independant releases in America. So I guess that means something

YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING SPEED/THRASH METAL LONGER THAN SLAYER HAVE...HOW DID THEY GET A RECORD OUT BEFORE YOU?
They were able to keep a solid line-up. Dark Angel was never able to get the 2nd guitarist that they needed or keep the drummer...they had a lot of drum personel problems,it was an open door policy with Dark Angel. All their drummers weren't very good,you could tell by that "We Have Arrived" demo,that came out about 2 months before Slayer released "Show No Mercy",and the drums on that just chumped. That old drummer is playing in a glam band now.....'Hollywood Hopscotch'.

YOU'VE PLAYED MANY GIGS WITH HIRAX, DO YOU GET ON WELL TOGETHER?
I don't know how we're getting on,I seriously do not know how Dark Angel and Hirax are getting on. I guess me and Katon get on pretty well but besides that I don't know. My guitarist is into Hirax,Jim likes 'em musically,he doesn't like every song but then again I don't like every Hirax song:I downright hate some Hirax songs. I love some Hirax songs like "Lightning Thunder",that's a great song. But they've got their differences with us...y'know they may love one of our songs but hate all the rest,they may hate all of 'em...but then again I don't really care who thinks what about us. It would kinda hurt if we found out Possessed were saying "screw Dark Angel" because that's kinda collectively our favourite band. We like to think we got along with them pretty well when Dark Angel went to 'Frisco and when Possessed came down here. They may get along with Hirax better.....but we're not here to be liked by everybody,we just hope the fans like us even if every other band in the world hates us,y'know that's their problem. I think we can get along with anybody but.....I hear rumours that Hirax started a bunch of stuff before we started anything,and I hear other rumours. I've got nothing against 'em.

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF BANDS SELLING - OUT???
What's the point? It's too late to get in on the bandwagon now,I mean Quiet Riot's already died a death and Motley Crue's gonna die a death (literally,I hope - Bill). Metal's gonna go back to being underground the way it was and all these bands who've wimped out to get signed....they're not gonna go anywhere. ..they're not gonna become mega-million stars. Metallica have lost all their Hardcore fans,and a bunch of wimps are into 'em now...and no-one likes being raped by having their favourite band liked by a poser. Slayer hasn't wimped out and gone commercial but they're very very popular now,they're not my favourite band any more because all these little kids with Motley Crue t-shirts are saying "yeah,Slayer,Metallica,dude - Metal!". And it's like the big trendy thing now is Speed Metal. I'm just waiting for it to get back to the underground where only the true people who are really into it are into it. Bands selling-out,y'know really there's Metallica, Savatage,they weren't exactly Hardcore anyway,and I hear EXODUS is gonna have a couple of commercial tunes on their next album - that just sucks,what's the point? I doubt Speed Metal will ever sell a million copies,no matter how good Metallica gets they're not gonna sell a million copies,so why do it? You lose fans.

WHAT'S PLAYING AT RADIO CITY LIKE?
It depends who you play with. If you play with Slayer,you will sweat and die If you play with Eden (much laughter), you'll be pretty cool onstage. We played with Slayer and I made the mistake of not being able to pace myself. In the first 3 songs I just headbanged myself to death,by the fourth song I was completely 'gone',I was barely vegetating through the rest of the songs...the show kinda suffered for it because it got kinda slow. Radio City is a very small place,it can hold maybe 300 people uncomfortably...they packed 650 or something like that in,just to see Slayer. It was pretty steamy and I ended up passing out after the show,and Mike the drummer from Possessed was sick as hell onstage just cos it was so hot. But now I do take precautions wherever we play,I've learned how to pace myself and if I have to I'll bring a fan up onstage with me.

DESCRIBE YOUR USUAL DAY...WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO AS A 'ROCK STAR'!!????!
I get up,I wash my face and make sure all the pimples are off it,I put on the make-up and the hairspray and the pink shorts and a white shirt!!!! What's my typical day? I get up - reluctantly,I go to work - reluctantly...I come home.. ..and...I go out.

{ Dark Angel }

DARK ANGEL cont'd

DOES DARK ANGEL HAVE ANY INFLUENCES?
Well I guess just anybody that's really fast and heavy. Venom and Metallica were the first two influences,there's probably a Slayer influence and probably an Anthrax influence...an Exciter influence...a definite Possessed influence. Sodom are probably in there,Jim likes Sodom a lot. There's going to be an Excel influence in it pretty soon. It's not just down to one band,y'know we like bands like Destruction,Sodom, Wargod,Slayer,old Metallica,definitely Exodus,definitely Possessed,Hirax,definitely Excel,Cryptic Slaughter,Celtic Frost.....
.....WHAT ABOUT HARDCORE BANDS???
Hardcore bands are cool:D.R.I.,A.O.D., Excel,C.O.C.,...y'know the list can go on and on.

DARK ANGEL are:-

Don Doty - lead vocals
Jim Durkin - lead guitar
Eric Meyer - lead guitar
Robbie Yahn - bass
Gene Hoglan - drums

Music without emotion

For more information,write to:-

DARK ANGEL
c/o Iron Works
10573 W. Pico Blvd.#36
Los Angles
CA 90064
U.S.A.

(Don't forget to enclose IRC!!!)

ANY PLANS ON TOURING?
Oh Jeez. Right now we're defintely 'iffy' on touring. We're trying to get something together across the US with another band. But this other band doesn't seem to really be as orgainised as they would like to think they are. Therefore I think we're gonna have to blow this tour off. We've just hooked up with a booking agency called Half-Wet Productions and they seem to wanna try something a little extensive with us and Agent Steel. I happen to like Agent Steel but I'm not gonna think more of them than they are,I'm not gonna say they're 'thrash or die Speed Metal'...a good band none-the-less,but they're not exactly gonna kill you with Metal. But hopefully we'll be out on the road soon. Europe will come in time.

ANY LAST COMMENTS FOR ALL THE ENGLISH RAGERS???
Have a nice day,hope you don't get rained on too much!

ENGLISH DOGS

ENGLISH DOGS aren't one of my favourite bands but who cares? I bet you don't. It just so happens that I find their particular brand of Metallica mayhem rather too melodic,that's all. But then again Pek and Middie inform me that my non-musical taste is "shit",so maybe that's got something to do with it. Anyway,there's no denying that the ENGLISH DOGS are one of Britain's best bands and a good bunch of musicians too. Here is an interview done with Pinch (the drummer - the questions were asked by Paul C..

DO YOU EVER REGRET RECORDING THE "MAD PUNKS..." EP AND "INVASION OF THE PORKY MEN" LP?
No,not at all,we all think they were quite powerful and good for their time and they also helped us gain popularity.

WHY THE SUDDEN CHANGE FROM PUNK TO METAL?
It was more of a gradual change really because our old singer left and when we got a new singer we also decided to get a lead guitarist and the Metal influence came naturally.

HAS GRAHAM BUTT HAD ANY INFLUENCE ON THIS CHANGE?
Obviously his lead breaks have helped fill out the songs and make them more interesting but we all decided what we were going to do before he joined.

WOULD YOU STILL BE PLAYING METAL WITHOUT HIM?
Do you fancy him or something?? Yes we would be playing what we play now with or without him.

YOUR MUSIC STILL HAS SOME OF THE RAWNESS OF PUNK BUT WITH HEAVY LEAD BREAKS. IS THIS INTENTIONAL?
The Punk era left behind a lot of power,speed and good ideas so it seems only natural for us to be playing like we are. I suppose it's just our own style of songwriting.

A LOT OF PUNK IS GETTING HEAVIER. CAN YOU SEE PUNK EVER DYING OUT IN ENGLAND?
Punk is almost dead in England anyway. You're lucky to get over 300 people at a gig now, unless it's a festival.

HAS MOVING TO ROT RECORDS BEEN A BENEFIT?
Rot Records is an even smaller indie label than Clay so we haven't benefitted but we have a lot more freedom with Rot. The album we have just done was the last thing we had to do for Rot so we're now looking for a new label,hopefully Neat or M.F.N. etc.

HAVE YOU LOST OR GAINED SOME OF YOUR FOLLOWING DUE TO YOUR CHANGE IN STYLE?
We definitely haven't lost any and we also get lots of Metal maniacs at our gigs now. It's great to see people headbanging at the front and Punks behind them dancing.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LYRICS.
Our lyrics are definitely not Satanic (or not meant to be anyway). I write most of the lyrics and they're just about anything that I consider to be worth writing about. They seem to tell stories in them,it's just my style.

WHO WRITES MOST OF THE SONGS?
It is a total band effort in writing songs,we all chip in with different ideas and that's what makes the songs different.

HAS BEING ON A SMALL LABEL RESTRICTED YOU?
Yes I suppose it has restricted us but like I said we're now looking for a bigger label and we've just signed a 3-album deal with Combat Records from America so hopefully that will help us get better known. They also have Venom on their label so they know what they're doing.

c/o Pinch,48 Harlaxton Rd,Grantham, Lincs,NG31 9DS,ENGLAND. (enclose SAE)

ATOMKRAFT

"NEIN DANKE!!"...NEIN...JA BITTE!!

If you can,cast your minds back 6 years and ponder what it was you were listening too then,I doubt it was anywere near as manic as the stuff you bless your ears with today.Or were you bothered with 'music' at all??.Anyhow I'm sidetracking,you see over there in sunny old Newcastle,a young desperate chappie named Tony Dolan was piecing together a band the like of which had never even been conceived of.A band who,if formed just yesterday would be like a spit in the ocean(such is the massive shift in musical agression).Because back in '79 'Death/Power Metal' was un heard of,maybe the distant dream of a 'crazed' child(or in some cases a nightmare). This was a time when Venom was still just a poison and the Ace Of Spades still a card.O.K,O.K,I hear you cry who are this band with such a long destructive career.. ..well...ATOMKRAFT thats who....WHO??....yeh exactly!!

Its a shame really,I cant help thinking that if Tony and the original members had stuck it out then they would have by now surpassed Venom's wildest dreams.But it was not to be,ATOMKRAFT were dogged by constant line-up changes,only Tony keeping the faith,and it was with this faith that he and the then ATOMKRAFT'ers entered Impulse Studio's in early '83 to emerge clutching the awesome 'TOTAL METAL'demo (is that O.K for you Lee??).Maybe this two-tracker(Total Metal & Death Valley) was the push the band needed to launch them to stardom???.Fraid not,shortly afterwards ATOMKRAFT split,or rather Tony went to Canada!!(@@**!/@@...yeah me too!!).

O.K,less of the reminiscing,its '85 now,Tony's back,and ATOMKRAFT are back with a vengeance,this new line-up(and hopefully a permanent one)of ROB MATTHEW on the 6-string motherfucker(guitar to you),GED WOLFE on skin-bashing(sounds nice,and I aint even gonna mention he was in Tyson-Poodle)joining TONY DOLAN on bass and vocal charms!!!.So into the studio they went.....and out they came clutching the 'POUR THE METAL IN'demo,with which they caught the attention of those at Neat(not too difficult,they'd be fuckin stupid to pass it up)who snapped them up and voila here we are.The 'FUTURE WARRIORS' L.P,has just been released(see reviews)an L.P which beleive me will ripppp your head off,maybe not in the same kamikaze way of Sodom, Des ruction etc..but you'll lose your head over it all the same,a stylish but real fuckin powerful decapitation,now thats what I like.And now with ATOMKRAFT soon to playing with Venom in Europe,this could be the year of the KRAFTMEN!!.All that can be said about the European dates is that Venom better get a good grip on that much covetted crown of theirs,cos ATOMKRAFT are gonna shake the shit outta them!!

READ ON MOTHER-FUCKIN WIMPS....READ ON AND LEARN SUMMAT!!!

IF SOMEONE WAS TO COME UP TO YOU AND SAY...'ATOMKRAFT'...SO WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT ?,HOW WOULD YOU REPLY ??

I think I'd reply by saying it's a goal!!Something to be acheived,meaning Nuclear Power! man has always strived to acheive it and I have always strived to acheive the greatest success for ATOMKRAFT.This time it looks set!

HAVING FORMED ATOMKRAFT 6 YEARS AGO,DO YOU FEEL YOU SHOULD HAVE ACHEIVED MORE IN SUCH TIME,THAN JUST PREPARING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE DEBUT L.P ??

Sure I feel more should have been acheived on vinyl,although I've never stopped playing,performing in or out of ATOMKRAFT.I do feel cheated a bit seeing as all those years ago,we were doing something different and worthwhile,now there's so many bands sounding exactly alike and none doing anything positive for metal...

DO ATOMKRAFT WISH TO BE CLASSIFIED AS ANOTHER 'SATANIC' BAND,BEARING IN MIND THE NUMBER OF BANDS AROUND TODAY WHO 'SING' ABOUT SUCH ??

'SATANIC'!! Ha!Ha!Ha!,Nah not really.

A RACE OF NEW WARRIORS,
WE TAKE CONTROL NOW,
FOR THE PAST WAS THEIRS,
THE FUTURE IS OURS,
AND THE TIME HAS COME!

WHAT DO YOU RECKON TO THE CURRENT METAL 'COMPETITION'(for want of a better word AND WHAT IS IT THAT ATOMKRAFT HAVE TO OFFER THAT IS BETTER THAN THE REST ??

I wouldnt claim we are better than any other bands,thats up to the people who buy our record.We think that were different,not pure thrash or bollock rock.Lets hope our originality is our future,even if WANKerrang dont think were that!!

NO DOUBT THERE IS SOME AROUND WHO WOULD CLASS ATOMKRAFT AS A 'POSEUR POWER METAL BAND',BECAUSE YOUVE TAKEN TO WEARING LEATHERS,STUDS,CHAINS etc.WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THIS,AND IS THE IMAGE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ATOMKRAFT ??

As for being 'Poseur Metal'mmm amusing No its not essential to us,we never used to wear anything other than dirty jeans and T-shirts 360 days a year !!! "The rest of the time we were asleep"!! Now however we feel to promote the L.P with a bang instead of a fizzle,we should look a touch more aggressive and exciting!!What do you think??

ARENT YOU WORRIED THAT YOURE GOING TO BE CLASSED AS 'JUST ANOTHER VENOM CLONE BAND',PARTICULARLY AS (i)YOU ARE ON NEAT RECORDS AND (ii)YOU ARE FROM THE NORTH-EAST,OR IS IT SOMETHING YOU'D BE CONTENT TO LIVE WITH ??

We wont be called Venom clones,4 years .....ago maybe,but I'm sure the L.P surprised you ??(too true..see review) So when others hear it,that thought will disappear totally from thought!!

O.K,THE BURNING QUESTION...WHY WERE YOU DEPORTED FROM CANADA,AND WHAT ABOUT THE 'DEMOLITION MAN' ALIAS,HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT ??

I was deported for things that big boys in Detroit get up to,only I was caught.The 'demolition' thing,well I break things,nothing in particular, just anything I want to at the time, its usually on stage and something that I shouldnt really be breaking.Oh my baseball bat is nicknamed 'demolition' too,it helps me break ~~pppple~~ er things too!!

HOW DID THE 'FUTURE WARRIORS' CONCEPT COME ABOUT,AND IS IT A THEME THAT IS TO BE CARRIED THROUGH-OUT THE BANDS HISTORY ??

The 'Future Warriors' thing again was just the newest idea we could think of as a way to approach our debut L.P,so we could make the biggest impact visually as well as musically!!I dont think it will last too long!

AS YOU DONT WISH TO BE LABELLED AS 'THRASH-METAL',WHAT DO YOU THINK OF 'THRASH..'.IS IT TO BE THE DEATH OF METAL,OR WILL IT ENSURE ITS SURVIVAL??

Thrash metal is a phase,already Metallica are dying from thrash,Slayer wont last,Exodus etc will enjoy a short term stay.We can see thrash is killing H.M and we dont want to be part of that,we want to be'her'and be able to progress without being called'wimpouts for a few years to come.

.....CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

ATOMKRAFT.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE PLAYING WITH SLAYER AND WHAT WAS WITH THE SMASHING UP OF YOUR INSTRUMENTS-an expensive pastime-ALSO THE'KERRANG'REVIEW OF THE GIG WAS NONE TOO FAVORABLE TO ATOMKRAFT,DID IT BOTHER YOU ??

Kerrang is O.K,but they always send women to review a mans gig!.I just laughed,cos the review all bullshit!! ask anyonw who was there!Slayer were fast!!Thats it,NO songs,NO power,nothiing,just fast!The smash up,well why not

WE ALL KNOW GED WAS IN TYSONDOG,BUT FROM WHAT DARK RECESSES DID YOU FIND ROB,AND HOWS HE TAKEN TO THE CARNAGE OF ATOMKRAFT ??

Rob was given to us by Abaddon of Venom who knew we were looking for someone and knew he was just sitting around and quite good.Hes fitted in well and he loves the idea of ATOMKRAFT.

HOW COME WE NEVER SAW ATOMKRAFT ON LIVE-AID,NO SERIOUSLY,HAVE YOU ANY THOUGHTS ON THE EVENT AND ITS INTENTIONS ??

We were on Live Aid!!or was that Quo, I can never tell the difference!Bob Geldof shouldnt get any prizes for anything and if hes so concerned then why aint he broke right now like me!!Apart from that the whole show sucked SHIT!!

HOWS GED COPED WITH THE'erhum' SLIGHT MUSICAL CHANGE FROM THAT OF 'TYSONDOG' AND IS HE GLAD OF THE MOVE ??

Yes,Ged was glad to move,he never really fitted in Tysondog musically or personally.He does fit the 'KRAFT He hates me and I hate Rob..brilliant! 'Total Mayhem'!!!

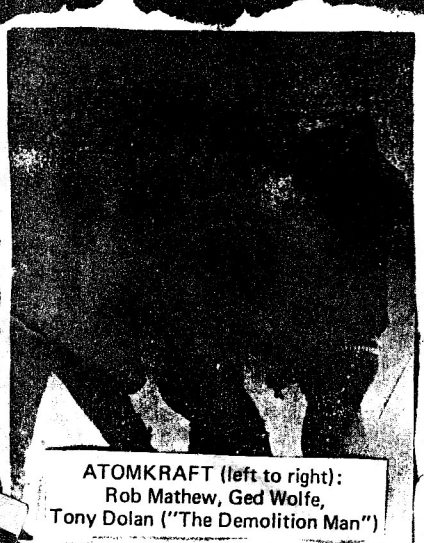
ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD...HELLO'S.....
....GOODBYE'S.....

HELLO..GOODBYE'S..Margaret Thatcher!! 'PHOENIX METAL MOTHERS MILITIA',all the best from ATOMKRAFT '85.

And lo it endeth..kindled an interest, yes?,get out there and buy the 'FUTURE WARRIORS' L.P..no?,n-n-NO!!..F.O.A.D!! Put pen to paper and write to the band at.....

ATOMKRAFT"FUTURE WARRIORS"PROMOTIONS
10 LUTTERWORTH ROAD
LONGBENTON
TYNE & WEAR
NEI2 8QQ

...A big ta!-mate to TONY'DEMOLITION - MAN'DOLAN and LEE PETERS for help getting the stuff together,couldnt have done it without you guys....CHEERS!!
And PHOENIX MILITIA is behind ATOMKRAFT,to the hilt and till death.....



ATOMKRAFT (left to right):
Rob Mathew, Ged Wolfe,
Tony Dolan ("The Demolition Man")

"DEATH VALLEY" (Lyrics:Dolan '82)

Down in the valley,were the mutants Sleep
Thinking of what has been,makes them Weep
Gathering up the coals,to burn their Immortal Souls
We've finally reached our ultimate Nuclear Goal

Praying on each other with madness They're wild
The melting raw flesh of a Mutated Child
And all the victims pray,they see the Last Of Day
For our ultimate metal will burn their Flesh Grey
Death Valley
We hold command to the Maniac Men
Enslave the Powers of Demons And Then
We tell them all to attack from The Hill
They're crushing all in our path at Our Will
Faster,for the Black Warriors
We are a warhead,we'll reap and Destroy
With our metal we'll send up a Bouy
To be a sign for you to all come Around
And watch the KRAFTMEN rip up The Ground.....

"MERRY LITTLE TUNE AAAAAAAAAAARRGH"

"TOTAL METAL" (Lyrics:Dolan '82)

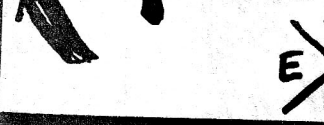
So here we are! You wanted clean
But you got us were fast and keen
At Total Metal were the best
Cos were the goddamn dirtiest
We'll chew you up
Mess you about
Let Total Metal spit you out.

C:Now that weve maimed all of you who were - Taimed
Taking the lead they'll brand you Insane
You'll bare us till you can bare No More
Then the KRAFTMEN will blow your ass out the door

Hold nothing back,we'll play so loud
We'll find you hiding in the crowd
Our Total Speed will screw your brain
We'll chew you up
Mess you about
Let Total Metal spit you out.

C:Now that weve maimed all of you who were - Taimed
Taking the lead they'll brand you Insane
You'll fall into wasteland when you hear the Sound
We're crushing the real world and Tearing It Down,Now.....

MAYHEM



N.Y.C. MAYHEM were,at the height of their career,the ultimate Thrash band. Sadly, during Autumn '85 they slowed down,and Craig & Tommy's attitudes were getting really stupid,so the band split. AAAARRRGGHHHHH!! Here's an interview we did with Gordon while he was staying in London in August '85.

READ ON....

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF MAYHEM?
Gordon: I'm Gordon,I play guitar, Tommy Carroll is the drummer & lead vocalist,and Craig Setari is our "new" bassist.

DO YOU HAVE MANY FANS IN THE NEW YORK AREA?
Gordon: We don't have that many fans in the New York area,our fans are just our friends really ...for now.

WERE YOU PLEASED WITH THE REVIEWS YOU GOT IN KICK*ASS AND METAL FORCES?
Gordon: Well that's the old rehearsal-demo which I really didn't like that much,so I really didn't care what they said about it,but our new demo,I hope people like a lot,because I think it's good.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MAG?
Gordon: Er.....Phoenix Militia!

DO YOU MAKE MUCH MONEY?
Gordon: No,we don't make that much money because we've just started out.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "NOT THAT MUCH MONEY"?
Gordon: Well we really don't make any money at all because, y'know,we're a new band,we just play little clubs and they don't pay that much money.

IF MOTLEY CRUE WALKED PAST US NOW - WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
Gordon: I wouldn't do anything, y'know,if they wanna look that way and play that type of music, it's their business.

HOW OLD ARE THE BAND MEMBERS?
Gordon: I'm 17 years old,Tommy is 16 and Craig is also 16.

WHAT SORT OF CLOTHES DO YOU WEAR ON STAGE?
Gordon: We just wear everyday clothes,we don't get "dressed up" - we don't pose.

GOOD! DO YOU GET NERVOUS BEFORE YOU GO ONSTAGE?
Gordon: Everybody gets nervous before they go on,but once I get onstage I feel confident.

DO YOU MAKE MANY MISTAKES WHEN PLAYING LIVE?
Gordon: Here and there,every band makes mistakes,you probably won't notice it but every band usually makes a mistake. But we don't make many mistakes.

HAVE YOU HAD INTEREST FROM ANY RECORD COMPANIES?
Gordon: Roadracer Records is interested in us right now,but I don't know what's gonna happen with that deal.

HAVE YOU HAD MANY LETTERS FROM ABROAD?
Gordon: Yeah,we get a lot of letters from all over the world - Germany...Holland...California... Idaho...all over.

ARRRGGHHH!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE OTHER BANDS CALLED MAYHEM?
Gordon: Well I don't really think about them. I think,y'know,they're probably gonna change their names so we don't have to worry about changing our name....they might die out,I dunno. But we're really called NEW YORK CITY MAYHEM (N.Y.C. MAYHEM),it's for copyright reasons.

TELL US ABOUT SOME OF YOUR NEWEST SONGS.
Gordon: We have a couple of new songs right now,they're more Hardcore,as opposed to Metal. And one song's called "Corrupted" - that's a Hardcore song. But most of the new songs are more Hardcore-ish:less leads,which I really don't like that much,but that's the way it's turning out to be. Maybe we'll change in the future.

WHY DID YOU GET RID OF TONY,YOUR OLD BASSIST?
Gordon: Because he really didn't fit in with the band,he didn't want to play super-fast music,he was into a different style of playing. He was into Death Metal, but he wasn't really "into" it.

WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?
Gordon: I don't know,I really don't speak to him that much. But he's jamming with a few other bands.

IS THIS THE FIRST BAND YOU'VE BEEN IN?
Gordon: Yeah,I had a couple of other bands but they were just "idea bands",we just said "we're gonna form a band" but we never got around to doing anything. This is the first real band.

HAVE YOU HAD MUCH COVERAGE IN FANZINES?
Gordon: Oh yeah,we're in a lot of magazines - Death & Destruction,.. ..Phoenix Militia...Pounder..... Phoenix Militia.....

MOST HARDCORE BANDS SEEM TO WRITE ABOUT POLITICS. WHAT ARE MAYHEM'S LYRICS ABOUT?
Gordon: Our songs deal with comedy,pain,destruction,death - not much death,but they deal with every aspect of life.

DO YOU PLAY ANY COVERS?
Gordon: No!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF SHADES?
Gordon: It sucks!! I hate it. I thought it was gonna be a great store,lotta records - they have a lot of records but.....it sucks.

WOULD YOU CLASS YOURSELVES AS HARDCORE OR DEATH METAL?
Gordon: I consider ourselves as a crossover between the two. Drums,bass & vocals are Hardcore, whereas my guitar-work is more Metal-sounding.

DO YOU GET ANY HASSLE AT GIGS, SINCE YOU'RE SO YOUNG???
Gordon: No,the audiences out in New York are the same age.

SO WHAT'S THE YOUNGEST AGE AT A TYPICAL GIG?
Gordon: Well there's kids like twelve years old,but they're with their brother or something. But the ages are usually from 15 (the usual age) to 50,you get all kinds of people.

WHY IS ENGLAND SO BORING?
Gordon: Well,this is my second day here,in London,and I like it a lot - a lot of action going on, like New York,y'know. I'm used to late-night scenes and London seems to have the same. But I wish there was more people into Death or Hardcore.

WHAT U.K. BANDS DO YOU LIKE?
Gordon: I like the STUPIDS,I don't like so many bands from England. I like a lot of bands from Holland,United States,West Germany...

WHERE WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO TOUR?
Gordon: There's really no particular place I'd like to play. I like to play in my own area,I like to play in New York,we have a lot of fans there.

WHAT'S THE WILDEST PLACE YOU'VE PLAYED?
Gordon: We've only played four shows,so I can't really tell you that. We played three different places out of these four shows, and they all seemed to be the same reaction. CBGB's in New York is great,that was my favourite place.

APART FROM MAYHEM,WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE FASTEST BAND?
Gordon: LARM. (yay!!! - Bill)

ARE YOU GONNA DO ANY MORE DEMOS?
Gordon: We're not gonna record any more demos. I don't think so. We're waiting for record companies to show interest.

ARE YOU ALL STILL AT SCHOOL?
Gordon: Yeah,we all go to school.

WHAT NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY BANDS DO YOU RECOMMEND?
Gordon: A.O.D. are great,they're from New Jersey,AGNOSTIC FRONT, a Hardcore band - I think they're great,MENTAL ABUSE are great, S.O.D.,NUCLEAR ASSAULT.

WHAT'S THE NEW YORK SCENE LIKE?
Gordon: As far as the Metal scene goes,it's not that happening.

HOW COME TOMMY DOES THE VOCALS?
Gordon: We were looking for a vocalist and then Tommy tried out the vocals,and it worked out well so he took over the vocals.

HOW & WHEN DID YOU RECORD YOUR OFFICIAL DEMO?
Gordon: We recorded the demo in June '85,and it took us 5-6 hours recording & mixing it.

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU USE?
Gordon: I have a Marshall half-stack,Fender Stratocaster guitar with Seymour Duncan pick-ups & a Floyd-Rose tremolo system,and Boss effects (Equalizer,Heavy Metal pedal,Sonic Distortion).

ANY FINAL COMMENTS,GORDON?
Gordon: Keep fist-banging,toe-tapping and buy PHOENIX...what's its name???

CORROSION OF CONFORMITY

CORROSION OF CONFORMITY are Mike Dean on bass & vocals, Woody Weatherman on guitar, and Reed Mullin on drums. They have released 2 albums, "Eye For An Eye" which has been re-released on Toxic Shock Records, and the latest album "Animosity" which is out on Death Records (a division of Metal Blade Records). Many thanks to Woody for doing this interview. To get more info on CORROSION OF CONFORMITY just write to:- C.O.C., P.O. Box 5091, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607, U.S.A.

WHY WAS C.O.C. FORMED?
Woody: Mainly for something to do. We needed something to occupy our time and we all had a deep interest in music and volume.

WHAT ARE THE BAND'S MAIN INFLUENCES? WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL INFLUENCES?
Woody: Early Sabbath is a big influence on us. Also the Ramones and Motorhead. I am also into Discharge, Black Flag, Minor Threat etc.....

ARE YOU PLANNING TO ADD A LEAD SINGER OR ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE HAVING MIKE DOING THE VOCALS?
Woody: I think we'll probably stay a 3-piece. We get along better this way. All of us agree on the music.

ARE YOU PLEASED WITH THE WAY THAT "ANIMOSITY" HAS TURNED OUT?
Woody: It is OK. Better than our first. Especially production-wise. We benefitted from a good studio and engineer.

WHERE DO YOU THINK THE BEST THRASH SCENE IN THE U.S.A. IS?
Woody: I don't really know. I like New York and a few other cities. It seems the same most places.

DOES C.O.C. GIG A LOT?
Woody: Yeah, pretty often. We've toured the USA twice this year and we are leaving on another one soon. We like to cover as much as we can. We don't make much money, usually we almost break even, but it's a lot of fun. WE'RE INTO IT!!

WHAT ARE THE BAND'S TOUR PLANS?
Woody: Tons of touring in the near future. No plans for Europe though, not yet.

CORROSION OF CONFORMITY

That C.O.C. interview was kindly donated by Scott Givens, and so was this gig review. Thanks a million Scott!

CORROSION OF CONFORMITY

CORROSION OF CONFORMITY - Underground Railroad, Morgantown, West Virginia 11th November 1985

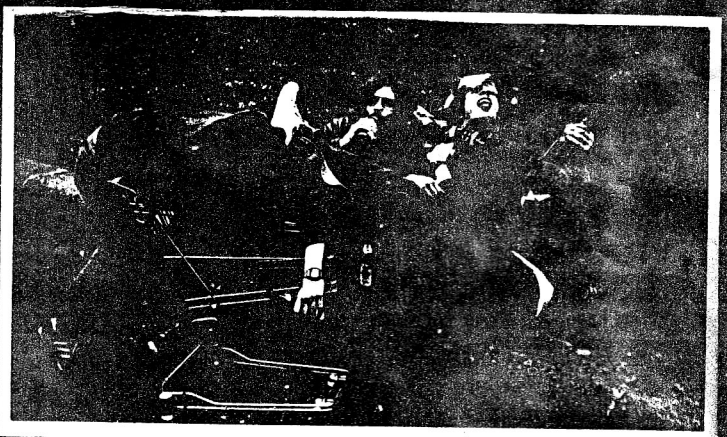
C.O.C. had been long overdue for a return to the Underground Railroad and you could tell by the looks on the crowd of 300 bangers, punkers and hardcores that this was going to be a night of serious thrashing.

After a brief request by vocalist/bassist Mike Dean for any divers to be careful not to make him "eat the mic" as they flew by, drummer Reed Mullin gave a quick count of 1-2-3-4 and the band ripped into a new song, "Crawling". This song totally killed and sent the crowd into a psychotic state; slamming, banging and diving. People were flying off the stage and P.A., crashing down on the first row of bangers and the next 20 feet of slammers. Next up was "Indifferent" from the first C.O.C. album, followed by "Loss For Words" and "Mad World" from their latest release, "Animosity". "Mad World" put the crowd into their hardest thrashing of the night, people were all over the stage, either singing with Mike or looking for a place to dive. People were all over the floor, and many were pinned down, lying on the stage! Next came "Holier", "Technocrisie" (a new song that had Reed banging like a mad man), and "Eye For An Eye" which was highlighted by four people on stage singing the chorus and one 240-pound banger who dived and wiped out nine of us as he landed. After that came "Intervention", "Positive Outlook" and "Pray For Power". Guitarist Woody Weatherman was playing ear-piercing leads as well as banging through the entire set. He typifies the term METALCORE by playing both Hardcore and Metal guitar, and making the two blend together perfectly.

The band then left the stage, well tried to, but the crowd wouldn't let them leave and the band gladly re-took their positions and tore into a new one called "Happily Ever After" which was introduced as "Polka Metal". Well if this is Polka Metal then call me a polka metaller. This song killed! Then came "Kiss Of Death" and "Hungry Child" which ended the show with a flurry of diving and slamming. Definitely one of the best shows I have ever seen.

(SCOTT GIVENS '85)

TANKARD



TANKARD was formed in 1982 by Axel Katzmann and Frank Thorwarth, and after having briefly used the names "Avenger" and "Vortex", they decided on their current title. "Tankard" is an old English word for a beer-jug, and the band say that they can identify themselves with this name, which is probably why they call their music "Alcoholic Metal". In early 1984, TANKARD released the "Heavy Metal Vanguard" demo which was recorded with Andreas Geremia (vocals), Axel Katzmann (guitar), Andy Bulgaropulos (guitar), Frank Thorwarth (bass) and Oliver Werner (drums). This line-up has been together since the founding-year. The demo has achieved good responses in various Metal fanzines but its overall success was hindered by the weak production. TANKARD's new demo, "Alcoholic Metal", is now out and is far superior to the first demo, as it features a better production and improved playing. To me, the band sound slightly similar to Tank's first album with just a sprinkling of Motorhead thrown in. But TANKARD are a fairly unique band, as although they're fast-paced, they don't play at 1000 m.p.h. and Andreas' vocals aren't growling. Some death-core thrashers might like TANKARD, others might not, but I'd recommend the band to most True Metallers. TANKARD's lyrics refer to murder, homicide, brutal massacres and the life of Metal maniacs, which should endear them to quite a few people! The "Alcoholic Metal" demo & poster & pic costs 10,-DM and both demos & pic & poster costs 15,-DM (cash only please).

TANKARD,
c/o Andreas Geremia,
Durkheimer Str. 80,
6230 Frankfurt/M 80,
West Germany.

alcoholic METAL

CORROSION OF CONFORMITY

"STORMTROOPERS OF DEATH is a concept that we have,we've got this character called Sargent D (which stands for Sargent Death),and he's just this sorta ruthless kinda guy,a total anarchist who'll go around and kill people just for the fun of it...people may think he's sorta like Eddie from Iron Maiden but he'd tear Eddie a neW asshole if it came down to it. We did a record - me and Charlie from the band (Anthrax), Danny Lilker from Nuclear Assault,and of course the creme de la creme of lead singers:Billy Milano from Method Of Destruction,the ultimate in death on vocals. It's just a real outrageous thing that we did,it's just real heavy and real fast,and I think one of the main reasons behind it was to shut up a lot of these bands who seem to come out every week and claim to play faster than everyone else..." So says Scott Ian - guitarist with S*O*D (as well as Arthrax),one of the best bands ever,and a band who are obviously not afraid of offending a few people! Their music is so excellent that I can even forgive them for slagging off such killer bands as DEATH and D*R*I!! I'm so desperate to feature them in this rag that I've decided to "steal" an interview that they did on New York's "Hellhole" radio show,which I'm sure you'll find interesting. We begin with their comments on a very well-known Thrash Metal band.....

Scott: I'd like to see certain bands from Los Angeles TRY and play as fast as this....
Billy: They start with an "S"!!
Charlie: And end with an "R"!!!
Scott: With a "Y" in the name...
Billy: They have a gay singer!!!
Scott: Seriously though,all four of us have really been into Hardcore for a long time and the New York scene,it's just real heavy stuff,total moshing music - really easy to mosh to - and lots of Speed Skank,it's just really crazy,y'know.

Next,Scott goes on to explain the idea behind the title track of their album,"Speak English Or Die".....
Scott: I guess it's our revenge on all the newspaper vendors in New York city - like,you go up and say "Let me have the new issue of Penthouse" - and like (they reply) "What? What issue do you want? I don't speak English" (said in strange Eastern accent).
Danny: All the hotdog vendors!
Scott: That's right,all the hotdog vendors,spaghetti vendors.....this is our revenge.....no insult intended.

S*O*D want to deny the image of racism and trouble-making that New York skins seem to have.
Scott: We've been hanging out on the scene for a while now down at CBGB's, and speaking for all of us I can pretty much say that the skinheads take all the flak and they get all the bad reputation but you can hang out with the skins,I'm friends with all the skins,and it's most -ly the trendy punks and the peace punks who really cause hassles on the scene and start fights and stuff like that down at CB's.....People call the skins here Nazis - and there's a lot of Jewish skins and that's about the furthest thing from a Nazi you're gonna find!
Billy: I'm not a Nazi - I'm American! And that means something to me. A lot of people,they come here,and they say "Communism is the way to be"...let's send 'em to Russia...
Scott: If you don't like this country,get the hell out of here.

Back onto the all-important subject of speed.....
Scott: We'd just like to say that Charlie Benante does not "cheat" on this album.....That right hand is going at the speed of light on the high-hat. There's certain jerks from certain bands that come out,and they cheat - and you may think they're fast but technically they're really not fast.
Danny: Only MAYHEM can cheat!
Billy: ...And get away with it!!!...
Danny: Cos they're REALLY fast.

Well,that's it - better than nothing,I'm sure you'll agree. Whether you agree with their opinions or not,you can't deny that S*O*D are one lethal Thrash band. They have a second LP due out this summer,and it'll feature loads of tracks including a Death Metal piss-take,a cover of INFERNO's "Ram It Up",a mega-short song called "Mo-Mo" and "Confused Boys",where they all swap instruments (musical instruments,that is)....and I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a "Ballad Of Jimi Hendrix"-style classic about another dead Rock star!
For info on merchandise and stuff like that,send an I.R.C. to:- S*O*D,233 Graff Avenue,Bronx,N.Y. 10465,U.S.A.

Heavy Metal has never been short of unhealthy associations with the black arts. A glance at the names of a few bands – *Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Witchfynde, Demon, The Cult, Lords Of The New Church, F.O.A.D., Stormtroopers Of Death, Gravedigger, Asmoroth, Blessed Death,* [illegible] makes the point. These metal types don't seem to want God on their team at all.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO SLAY POSERS AND WIMPS.

MORE TAPE REVIEWS

WARGOD - demo.....3 tracks of technical Thrash Metal in the vein of Slayer or a faster Blessed Death. All great stuff. This was recorded in the band's own studio and the quality is certainly above average,as is the musicianship. This tape is available for $4 (and some postage if you live outside the US). WARGOD,P.O.Box 276,Long Dale,CA 90260,U.S.A.

NAPALM DEATH - "From Enslavement To Obliteration" demo.....When I hear stuff like this it almost makes me feel proud to be British!! NAPALM DEATH play with blistering speed and intensity,and what amazes me even more is that they're supposed to go even faster than Heresy when playing live!!! Brilliant. NAPALM DEATH,c/o Justin, 79 Hernefield Road,Shard End,Birmingham,B34 6PN,England.

LUDICHRIST - demo.....Very original,professional-sounding Hardcore that can't fail to impress. There's not one bad song on the whole tape. Watch out for "God Is Everywhere" and "Most People Are Dicks" - 2 definite classics of our time (GREAT lyrics!). Send 5 dollars to:- LUDICHRIST,c/o Tommy Christ,7 Third Avenue,Farmingdale,N.Y. 11735,U.S.A.

GHOSTRIDER - "Mayhemic Destruction" demo.....Contrary to what Metal Forces says,GHOSTRIDER sound nothing at all like the mighty HELLHAMMER. This 4-track demo is badly-produced,featuring badly-written songs which have been badly-played. The whole tape is bad. However,there have been line-up changes since the demo was done and the band have now changed their name to NECRODEATH - I've heard one of their rehearsal tapes and it was certainly a lot better than GHOSTRIDER. For more info on NECRODEATH,who could turn into something quite interesting,contact:- Nicola Ingrassia, Via Somalia 41/11,16038 Santa Margherita,Ligure (GE),Italy.

LETHAL AGGRESSION - demo.....This lot are a Hardcore/Metal cross-over band from New Jersey. Out of the 7 tracks on this tape,I like "Vodda Vodka" the most as it's totally blitzing speedcore from start to finish. But all the other 6 songs are great too - I don't care what anyone says,you just can't beat raw tight THRASH!!! Send 4 dollars to:- Rob deFroscia,555 Duquesne Blvd,Brick,N.J. 08723,USA.

ANIHILATED - demo.....Another UK band worth investigating. The demo is pretty good Punk/Metal,but I hear they're a lot better now. I wish they good spell their name right! Seriously though,I think most of you will like ANIHILATED. Contact: Si,11 Coleridge Road, Ipswich,Suffolk IP1 6EH,England.

POSSESSED/DEATH ANGEL/BLACK DETHE - Ruthies Inn,Berkeley
6th September 1985

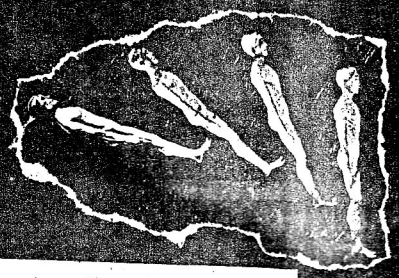
Well another night of total death in Berkeley,this time in the form of POSSESSED,the new up-and-coming Black Metal Gods.

First up were a group I'd never seen before,BLACK DETHE. This band shows great promise. Their songs are real ragers,with cool parts & tempo changes thrown in to make them interesting. Definitely a band to watch for.

Next up were Bay Area favourites DEATH ANGEL. In their usual top form,they performed an intense set that included such killer numbers as "Kill As One" and "Ultra-Violence",among others. These guys are totally professional & tight,their songs are all technical yet thrashing,each one with its own identity. This is a band that's destined to go far.

I've seen POSSSESSED several times,but tonight they were ready to kill,and were in top form. The house-lights dimmed and an evil-sounding intro tape transfixed the crowd,before "The Exorcist" came crashing through the amps. These guys are so heavy and fast it's fucking unreal. Next up was the totally killer "Pentagram",in which Jeff Becerra delivers some truly wicked vocals. This guy is gonna be the next Cronos or Tom Araya. They ripped through all their classics. "Evil Warriors","Burning In Hell","Satan's Curse", "Fallen Angel","Twisted Minds","Swing Of The Axe","Holy Hell",and a newer number "The 7 Churches",the title of their debut album. They were called back for an encore,and did "Death Metal" which destroyed what was left of my already pummelled body. These guys are the ultimate,last word in Death Metal with every song being over 1000 MPH without a second of mellowness. Good luck guys on your forthcoming tour & album. "Hail Satanas"!!!!

(MARTY EGER '85)



VENOM/SLAYER/POSSESSED - Kabuki Theatre,San Francisco
12th April 1985

What an unbelievable bill:three of the world's best Death Metal bands gathered at one time. The place was packed with Black Metal bangers when the first chords of "The Pentagram" deafened the crowd. It was POSSESSED,the Bay Area's own Black Metal gods. They did a short but killer set of classics ("Satan's Curse","Twisted Minds","The Exorcist","Holy Hell", "Swing Of The Axe" and "Death Metal") that left bangers gasping for air.

SLAYER played next,and they were the group I had really come to see. The guys fuckin' rage!!! They opened with "Praise Of Death" from the latest album, "Hell Awaits". The crowd went psycho as they went into "Die By The Sword". Next up was "Necrophiliac" (the sickest song ever),what a rager!! "At Dawn They Sleep" was next,followed by "Fight Till Death" and the closer "The Antichrist". They got no encore because Kerry King was having sound problems (this also cut the set short). I was disappointed that they didn't get to play their usual set,with great songs like "Evil Has No Boundaries","Black Magic" and "Show No Mercy". Still I think they played the best set of the night.

Next up were the headliners - VENOM. After a very long intro the Geordie trio burst onto the stage with "Too Loud For The Crowd" from their latest album "Possessed". Where SLAYER relied on sheer thrashing power,VENOM relied more on their lighting show and pyrotechnics. Still they played a very heavy set of older material like "Welcome To Hell","In Nomine Satanas","Black Metal","Leave Me In Hell","Buried Alive","Schizo","Bloodlust" and "Poison" among others. They do have one of the best shows I've ever seen,and with it they might finally break big in America. Good luck guys,but go back to that old VENOM sound from the first two albums. I left the theatre deafened and blinded,but I fuckin' loved it,one of the best shows I've ever seen.

(MARTY EGER '85)

WEST COAST UPDATE - CALIFORNIA THRASH

There are new killer bands popping up every day. My favourite new band is MORDRED from the Bay Area. They are a kick-ass new band who already have a strong following;and they've only played 2 live gigs, at the Mabuhay Gardens (where they headlined both times). They are very thrashing yet technical,kind of like EXODUS. They are going into the studio soon to record a demo. It will be produced & engineered by Gary Holt.

Other killer bands are JACKALS and DEMONIC ASCENT!!! The latter being total Venomesque death. WARLORD is a real good band from L.A., also look out for the debut album from HIRAX on Metal Blade Records,it is total Speed Metal.

(MARTY EGER '85)

I'd just like to thank Marty for all his help with the zine,I really appreciate it!

VINYL VIOLENCE!

CHRIST ON PARADE - Sounds Of Nature LP (Pusmort)

This lot have been compared to CRUCIFIX by many people, and if you've heard this album then you'll know why. But there are a few differences in C.O.P.'s sound which means that they avoid sounding like rip-off artists. The most obvious difference is that this band don't base their lyrics around nuclear war & starvation like CRUCIFIX did. Also,CHRIST ON PARADE have a definite M.D.C. influence - all of this adds up to make an excellent Thrash record that Hardcores everywhere will enjoy.

(BILL '85)

ATOMKRAFT - Future Warriors LP (Neat)

OK,the last thing I'd actually heard by ATOMKRAFT was the legendary "Total Metal" demo (2 trax of raw blistering mayhem) and then being told of their antics supporting SLAYER,I was expecting nothing short of another "Welcome To Hell" or "Black Metal".

However,all along Tony kept saying "it ain't like what you're expecting" and "it's gonna surprise you",and you know what,he was 100% spot on. It's nowt like I was expecting (it's better) and yes it did surprise me (surprise not shock). This new line-up is by far the best (no disrespect to earlier 'KRAFTERS). They've polished up the snottiness,but it still bursts thru',giving 9 cuts of highly polished snottiness - the perfect Metal LP?? It ain't Death Metal (DEAF???) and it ain't frrrassh!! It IS Future Metal. ....HAIL THE FUTURE WARRIORS!!

Starting off with "Future Warriors",you know you're onto a good thing,one soddin' powerful bass that,shifting tempo and a solid backbone - excellent. OK,"Starchild",I had my reservations about it at first a ballad but then not a ballad I've come to the conclusion that it's just the chorus that fails it. Tony's voice just seems alien to the music - as hard and heavy as ever - anyway it grows on you the more you hear it (take my word for it). "Dead Man's Hand",brilliance as ever,lyrics a little "Ace Of Spades"-ish,but it's the music that makes this one,and an ass-kicking solo from Rob to boot. And then,ladies & germs....."Total Metal",probably the high point of the LP this,it is ATOMKRAFT at their dirtiest,yes it is better than the demo version and well worth the wait to see it on vinyl.

"Pour The Metal In" begins Side 2 with a bang,no let-up from the onslaught-Pure POWER !! The opening micro-seconds of the next offering had the hairs on the back of me neck on end,was it not "Death Valley"?? It was,it was,although now it's been incorporated into "This Planet's Burning", no mean feat and the conjunction has paid off ten-fold. "Warzone"...Power Metal at its best,overdubbed with the constant sound of battle just adds to the intense fury of the track,it'll create a "Warzone" of your ears. "Burn In Hell",another powerhouse song that Tony, Rob & Ged can be proud of. "Heat & Pain",at first listen I loosely termed this as "an old sea shanty gone Metal"!! Now I've seen the lyrics which would make the most amourous swashbuckler blush!

And lo it came to a close, probably the Metal LP of the year so far (no chance!!-Bill) easily the best Neat's released. So venture out and let the 'KRAFTMEN..."CHEW YOU UP,MESS YOU ABOUT AND LET TOTAL METAL SPIT YOU OUT".

(PEK '85)

VARIOUS ARTISTS - Metal Meltdown Volume One LP (Subway)

Would anyone like a free copy of the "Metal Meltdown" comp.LP??? I'm sure you'll like it if you enjoy listening to endless Ratt/Motley Crue rip-offs,along with a couple of bands trying to ape Iron Maiden.

(BILL '86)

ANGELWITCH - Screamin 'n' Bleedin LP (Killerwatt)

"ANGELWITCH...They won't take you completely,they'll just leave you screamin and bleedin" - yeah....and I'm Mohammed's mother!! (Huh??) 10 trax of utter dross,it don't do fuck-all for me,even the so-called demonic "Evil Games" fell flat on its featureless face. The only thing this LP invoked in me was a severe bout of nausea..... ...AVOID!!

And on to ANVIL we go,this seems to be a compilation of sorts,featuring some unreleased goods to lure the ardent ANVIL fan into buying. Not ever really being familiar with ANVIL,I can't compare and go on about how they should have used X track from Y album instead of....so I'll just set about what I've got. Firstly, nice of the lads to lay down the first 3 trax in a different order than that which is printed on the sleeve. So instead of kicking off with the beautifully-titled "Pussy Poison",we start with "Backwaxed" not a bad little song in its own right. From then on tho' it's all downhill,apart from "Pussy Poison" which turned out to be a fuckin' instro (no seedy lyrics - damn!!).

Side 2 didn't turn out that much better either. "Metal On Metal",the side-opener came over quite anthemy,but other than that,a bit of a let-down, although it did pick up with "Butter Bust Jerky",well with a title like that it had to be good..right?? Anyway like I said only an ANVIL fan would be interested in this and if you ain't an ANVIL fan (like moi!) - Steer Clear!!..... ....Nuff Said!!

(PEK '85)

RAZOR - Evil Invaders LP (Viper/Roadrunner)

Canadian Thrash Metal is pretty uncommon,in fact I'd say that there are only about 5 or 6 good bands from the land of the maple leaf (not forgetting the odd Hardcore band such as Direct Action). However,these guys seem to know their stuff.

I remember reading in Metal Forces that RAZOR's music has "SLAYER stamped all over it". Bullshit. To me,this band sound nothing like SLAYER,and I get the impression that RAZOR tend to draw from older influences such as Motorhead and early Judas Priest,plus maybe Metallica. I wouldn't class their music as Total Deathcore Thrash...their style is basically extremely heavy-duty Metal played at a moderately fast pace.

The first track,"Nowhere Fast",is an instrumental and it is here that we first encounter the album's most noticeable flaw - the snare drum sound,which sadly lacks power. Anyway,the track itself is a killer with changing speeds & riffs.

Tracks like "Legacy Of Doom" "Instant Death","Cut Throat", "Thrashdance" and the title song all bear the RAZOR trademark:Dave Carlo's distinctive guitar sound,and Stace "Sheepdog" McLaren's husky voice.... these 2 factors are surely vital to the band's sound & originality.

So...I would definitely advise you to buy this record as it's excellent headbanging material,and at least RAZOR manage to Thrash without sounding like other bands. There's just one thing I'd like to ask the band;do you think you could possibly play a bit faster on the next LP??? That's just me being fussy I suppose!

(BILL '85)

POSSESSED - Seven Churches LP (Roadrunner)

POSSESSED produce an awesome wall of Death Metal riffing and harsh,satanic vocals that makes them easily one of the heaviest bands to be released on vinyl. If you've been wondering whether to buy this or not,then don't hesitate to drop this mag and buy "Seven Churches" at your nearest record shop...you will NOT be disappointed..

(BILL '85)

MACE - Process Of Elimination LP (C.O.M.A.)

MACE describe themselves as "Metalcore",a cross between Metal and Hardcore. While I can see that a lot of Punx might like this album,I wouldn't really say that they sound much like a Hardcore band....a better description for them would be Power/Thrash Metal,I reckon.

But before I continue to bore you with even more trivial details,why don't I just review the record? After all,that's what I'm supposed to be doing.

I was immediately impressed by the cover artwork - if you ever see it then you'll know what I mean. I put the record on my turntable,played it (well what else would I do with it??) and here's what I thought:-

"S.U.B.O." - a good solid opening track,very anthem-like ...with decent relevant lyrics too.

"Smoking Gun" - kinda catchy like the first song,with the usual intense guitar sound.

"The Introduction" - starts off in a very original style, which leads into another good song,hardly incredible though.

"Violent World" - the tune of this one tends to stick in your head after a couple of listens,plus some more anti-war lyrics.

"Drilling For Brains" - one of the two best cuts on the LP,in my opinion,it's one of the fastest too.

"Marine Corpse" - about those redneck dickheads that join the marines,and yes,this one's catchy as well! Good stuff.

"Act Of War" - my other fave on the record (guess what it's about!)...rather intense like the other tracks.

"Room 101" - weak compared to the others,still OK though.

"M.A.C.E." - another anthem-type song,and a good way to finish the disc.

So...I think you'll find that MACE are different to your average Hardcore Metal band as far as lyrics are concerned,yet they manage to retain that slightly "classy" edge that many Power Metal bands have. I think you'll enjoy this album.

(BILL '86)

TEEZE - Teeze LP (SMC)

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!!!! (I was gonna leave the review like that but then I remembered that they'd sent me this LP free - so I guess I'd better give this a proper review). This is a worthless piece of commercial shit,similar to Motley Crap,released with only one aim - to make money. TEEZE are a disgrace to Metal....to Rock...to music...to entertainment...to humanity!

(BILL '86)

ONSLAUGHT - Power From Hell LP (C.O.R.)

OK,I know this is ages old but I was sent it to review so that's what I'm gonna do... ...even though most of you have already heard it. For those of you haven't,I'd recommend it - but only if you're willing to put up with some very silly and cliched "satanic imagery" crap. I've got nothing against the odd satanic song,but it really does bug me when bands try to take it seriously. What makes it worse is that ONSLAUGHT used to sing about nuclear war but since they began to play Metal they decided to give themselves this "devil-worship-per" image.

The music's what counts tho' and there are some decent tracks to be found on this LP - the title cut,for instance. "Death Metal" has to be the worst song,with Nige's weak vocals....this comes nowhere near the POSSESSED classic of the same name.

ONSLAUGHT's new album,"Metal Forces",will be out by the time you read this - and will surely sound a lot different to "Power From Hell" because of the line-up changes - it will be interesting to hear wether it's better or worse than this record.

(BILL '86)

VOIVOD - RRRROOOAAARRRR LP

Wow!! An exclusive!!?! Yes, here it is,one of the rare few PHOENIX MILITIA reviews that is actually up-to-date. This (at the time of typing) hasn't been released yet so I can't tell you what label it's on - never mind,I think you'll find that it'll have distribution throughout USA, Europe etc.

Anyway,onto the album itself - no real surprises here,just nine cuts of typical VOIVOD greatness. Obviously,there have been improvements - most notably in the production which is far better than that on their first LP. All the songs have been well-structured and arranged to keep the listener on his/her toes..... the Venom influence is still evident but luckily not at all over-bearing,which is good news for those of us who happen to despise Cronos & co!

Best tracks?? It'd be almost impossible to name 'em really, cos they're all on a par with each other. I'm particularly partial to "Korgoll The Exterminator","Slaughter In A Grave" "Thrashing Rage" and the second half of "Fuck Off And Die",but I doubt that any VOIVOD fan will find any disappointments on this LP.

(BILL '86)

ENGLISH DOGS - Forward Into Battle LP (Rot)

These guys have come a long way since writing about having "£22.50 and that's on the dole". Since then we've seen them release the worst LP ever - "Revenge Of The Porky Men", get a new vox person,change labels,release the brilliant - "it's not Metal tho" - "To The Ends Of The Earth" EP,add "yes I can play guitar" Graham Butts on lead and now have major labels slobbering over them. Quite impressive for a band who just 3 years back were "Mad Punx"!!!

Onto this slab of "aural intercourse",10 trax of pure sticky mess stuff (you filthy bastard!!!-Bill),from the flaming (awwww) intro of "Forward Into Battle" to the extremely "Call Of Ktulu"-ish "Brainstorm" (both of these being instro's). Of course it's Metal,they would be fools to try and deny it,but it's good Metal,unlike ONSLAUGHT (all pentagrams and no brains satanists hah). I advise...no I'm asking...NO I'M TELLING you to buy this LP. It's probably the best thing you could get for your ears,I wish I could pick out a track and say it makes the LP...sorry,but there are 10 such "it's". I'm gonna submit the Power Metal "Final Conquest",the rousing "Nosferat-u",the testament of "He That Is Bound" and the battle-rousing-g,chest-beating "Wall Of Steel" for Oscars,Emmys,or even a Blue Peter Badge cos they deserve some recognition.

Lyrically the 'DOGS never have been politically motivated and unlike certain dickhead, bandwagon-jumpers (hello ONSLAUGHT),for them to be singing about cold steel,battles and ancient gods,doesn't show their previous lyrics as false. So there's no shit gonna fly back in their faces. Now go out and buy this LP. I order ye,you can thank me for it later. The ENGLISH DOGS are gonna go far, stand in their way and they'll brush you like worms..... ...BRILLIANT.

(PEK '85)

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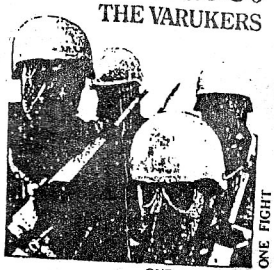
THE VARUKERS



ONE STRUGGLE

LIBERATE RECORDS

N.M.E. - Unholy Death LP (L.S.R.)

H-E-A-V-Y!!!! N.M.E. sound like early Venom only twice as heavy,with loads more distortion and feedback. Yeah they kill!! This album was obviously recorded in a large cave or at least an aircraft hanger,cos the production is disgusting! It's brilliant!!!

My fav. track is probably "Unspeakable",which is where Skot Tinsley's bass sound reaches its climax,sounding not too dissimilar to a tank. Kurt's guitar comes a close second in terms of distortion, while the drummer merely settles for the sound of huge boulders being smashed into pieces by a sledgehammer. Not to be out-done,Brian Llapitan does his best to make it sound as if he's just had his throat slit - and he does an excellent job too.

N.M.E. do not rely on speed like so many other bands these days...they prefer to go for all-out power,heaviness and distortion which is fine by me. Believe it or not, there are some great tunes behind all the noise,songs like "Louder Than Hell","Evil Dead" and "Lethal Dose" are truly memorable as well as mind-numbingly heavy. BUY!!!!!!

(BILL '86)

VARIOUS ARTISTS - Cleanse The Bacteria LP (Pusmort)

MINOR THREAT - Salad Days EP (Dischord)

BLOODSPORT - Class Struggle EP (Quiet)

BLOODSPORT first,aww come on - fuckin' awful,I'd send this back but it'd be a waste of postage - AVOID!!

MINOR THREAT...oh dear oh dear,what happened?? Beatles meets Flux (yeah THAT bad!). Crumbs! Makes me wanna put "Out Of Step" on (but I've flogged it),and why enclose pix of yourselves if you look nowt??

Now the comp.LP,probably the most "exciting" piece of Nicks package,sorry Nick,but you wouldn't send CARNIVORE to Greenham and you don't send BLOODSPORT/M.THREAT vinyl to PHOENIX,which is why the comp. LP seemed good and so it should cos it does feature 18 bands from 12 different countries with 32 trax between them,now surely there must be summat here to tingle the old taste buds. Well,out of 18 bands,write off 12 of them, leaving us a "core" of POISON -IDEA,C.O.C.,MOB 47,CRUDE S.S. ...SIEGE and EXECUTE. Y'see these six offer in some capacity what 99% of today's PHOENIX readers want:noisy, fast,chaotik muzak.....but with playing ability,which seperates good Thrash from cheap shit. But then again,all the aforementioned six do have better on offer. Check out POISON IDEA's "Record Collectors..." LP,and C.O.C.s "Animosity" LP,and real Thraaash fans check out SIEGE's "Drop Dead" cassette, which makes Slayer sound like Trouble!!

Anyway,an LP for collectors ardent fans,or mothers (??). I guess these reviews have buggered PHOENIX's chances of getting anything else to review,eh Nick. Just imagine if Bill had reviewed 'em..... WOW!! Lawsuits! Now where's me ashtray??

(PEK '85)

BATHORY - The Return.....LP (Black Mark)

The long-awaited follow-up to BATHORY's successful debut album,and in my opinion it's just as good if not better. Sadly,the Venom influence is as strong as ever which makes Quorthon's claims that he isn't influenced by anyone seem very ridiculous. So,what makes BATHORY better than Venom?,you ask....well,BATHORY are faster & heavier than Venom,not nearly as conceited and they are more concerned with playing Thrash Metal than making huge sums of money.

All 10 tracks kill,with the exception of the odd boring doomy one which is still OK I suppose. This disc has a far superior production to its predecessor,and Quorthon's vocals have especially benefitted. If you're a BATHORY fan you'll go crazy over this.

(BILL '85)

[illegible] - Novel Related LP (Earache)

Who'd have thought that the UK could produce one of the world's fastest bands? I sure didn't,so when I first heard heard HERESY I was really shocked - they're even faster than LARM!!! It's a shame that this is only a flexi-disc as the quality is dodgy on some copies (mine included)...but their brilliance shines through despite that. The price of 50p/1 dollar includes a groovy cover with pix on the inside,plus a lyric sheet. HERESY are thoroughly devastating and will surely become massive in the not-too-distant future. SPEED KILLS.

(BILL '86)

RAZOR - Executioners Song LP (Attic)

Probably one of the best slabs of vinyl we've been sent so far,real interesting... 10 out of 11 trax of solid Power Metal,the "odd" track being "City Of Damnation" - shame really,it's as if the band are racing with each other,and it does become rather laughable. RAZOR would be better off sticking to "Escape The Fire"/"Take This Torch" sorta material. Hey, what am I here for,to give RAZOR their destiny or persuade you mothers into buying the LP? Having to make an obligatory comparison I'd say SLAYER cum EXCITER cum ABATTOIR,so definitely any self-respecting "frasher" would have this in their collection,and I hear it's been released thru' Roadrunner so what more could you ask for ?? A fave cut,well "Gatecrasher" is a snotty Power Metal bash and real enjoyable it is too. I'll leave you now with a nifty lyric from "Timebomb" (N.B. Satan ain't mentioned once on the LP!!). "Chains,spikes,volume,timebomb takes its toll. Speed,power, leather,Metal,Rock'n'Roll." Says it all really,don't it?

(PEK '85)

STORMTROOPERS OF DEATH - Speak English Or Die LP (Megaforce/Roadrunner)

Jeez! Talk about aggressive! S.O.D. are so aggressive they make Rambo look like a choirboy (cue ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT song "Rambo Is A Fag"!).

And...NO!! They're not racists! The title track is actually about all the foreign newspaper-vendors in N.Y. who can't speak English properly. Anyway,the lyrics are totally irrelevant when the music is this good. S.O.D. are deliberately obscene & offensive,so they shouldn't really be taken too seriously. I can relate to most of their humour,especially on "The Ballad Of Jimi Hendrix" which never fails to have me in fits of laughter! Other chunks of sheer excellence are "Kill Yourself","Milano Mosh", "Chromatic Death","Anti-Procrastination Song","Milk" and "Diamonds & Rust". I love this record and if you like Hardcore Thrash then you will too.

(BILL '85)

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Izwo

WARHAMMER are now a 3-piece. Mike (bass/vocals) and Wayne (guitar) left the band to form NIGHTLAW,who are supposed to be in the Metallica vein. The new WARHAMMER bassist is John Walker and Mitch (guitar) has also taken over vocals. There was origin-ally going to be a WARHAMMER interview in this issue but it went out of date so I scrapped it. However,if all goes well there will be a large WARHAMMER interview in issue no.7.

I hear from a very reliable source that Mantas of Venom really isn't the guitar hero that he makes himself out to be (surprise surprise!). In fact,he can't even play "Lady Lust"! So now you know why they never do that song live.

Remco and Marcel have both left THANATOS. Stephan has found 2 suitable replacements but unfortunately they live quite far away from him and so the band can't rehearse too often.

I'm sure that I speak for all true fans of Ultra-Hardcore Thrash when I say that it was very disappointing to hear about N*Y*C MAYHEM splitting up. After all,they were probably the ultimate Speedcore band in their heyday. Anyway,since the split Tommy (drums/vox) and Craig (bass) have formed a band named STRAIGHT AHEAD with a guitarist called Rick (who supposedly used to be in SMEGMA). Meanwhile,Gordon (guitar) has joined AGNOSTIC FRONT...so that collaboration should be very interesting to say the least.

ATOMKRAFT are in the shit (so to speak). Rob and Ged have left the band,so only Tony remains,and he's currently seeking new members.

I made a mistake in my review of ONSLAUGHT's debut LP. Their new LP is called "The Force",not "Metal Forces". The album is out now on Music For Nations.

HELLBASTARD have a new bassist. Says Scruff,"Simo was too incompetent. He just couldn't be bothered."

Damn! I forgot to type out the WARHAMMER address! Here it is:- Mitch,14 Delphside Court,Broseley,Shropshire,TF12 5SR,England. So write to Mitch if you want to feature WARHAMMER in your zine, or if you wanna get them a gig...or if you just want some info on them. They plan to record their 2nd demo as soon as possible - since their line-up change there has been a change in direction,as there will be no more satanic lyrics and the new material will be more in the style of Cryptic Slaughter,Insanity & Dark Angel,with a greater Hardcore influence. By all means check out ALL WARHAMMER material (even the old stuff)...they're the best Death Metal band in Britain.

Have you noticed how almost every band in this zine seems to have had a line-up change since inclusion in PHOENIX MILITIA??? Can this be some kind of jinx??!!??

A while back the ENGLISH DOGS signed a 3-album deal with Music For Nations,since then they've released the "Let The Kill-ing Begin" EP and an LP is soon to follow.

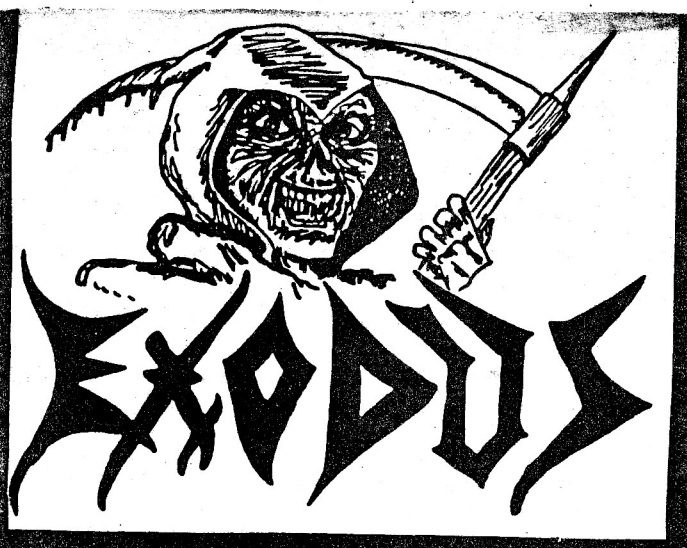
The new CHAOS U.K. album should be out very soon,and it's supposed to be really fast & thrashing. I also heard a rumour that they'll be releasing a split-EP with Ipswich's EXTREME NOISE TERROR,dunno if it's true or not.

even more tapes

KIL D'KOR - demo.....I think that this band should ignore my review of this tape as I'm hardly the most suitable person to pass judgement on it. You want my opinion? I hate commercial Metal,so I find KIL D'KOR very boring. KIL D'KOR,P.O.Box 98404,Seattle,WA 98188, U.S.A.

HOLY TERROR - demo.....Heavy,melodic,fast,technical - just a few words to describe HOLY TERROR. They're all great,talented musicians and this tape certainly does them justice,being classy and accessible yet in no way wimpy. I personally feel that they should get a bit more aggressive to gain the maximum effect,but that's just my opinion - the chances are that they prefer playing this way. They're worth a good listen even if it's just for the brutal guitar work,gasp!! HOLY TERROR,P.O. Box 204,8500 Sepulveda Blvd,Sepulveda,CA 91343,U.S.A.

ACCUSED - demo.....I totally freaked over the "Martha Splatterhead" EP,and this was no disappointment either. My faves are "Mechanized Death" and "Take No Prisoners" - two highly savage cuts of Speedcore...recommended to Punx and Metallers alike. ACCUSED,c/o Fidelity Management,13017 Mukilteo Speedway,Lynnwood,WA 98037,U.S.A.



EXODUS/MEGADETH/CONTROL - Kabuki Theatre,San Francisco
31st May 1985

San Francisco is California's hotbed for new Thrash Metal gods. The hordes of death bangers here tonight were gathered to see three "local" bands,EXODUS, MEGADETH and CONTROL. It was EXODUS' record release party and every die-hard EXODUS fan was here tonight.

CONTROL kicked things off with a highly enjoyable opening set. They only played 6 songs,but the songs were all bangable yet progressive at the same time (a bit too progressive for me,they could be a bit heavier). Still a good performance none the less.

Next up was MEGADETH,featuring ex-Metallica guitarist Dave Mustaine. Dave & company have a fairly large and dedicated following. They opened up with the instrumental "Hook In Mouth",then ripped into classics like "Loved To Death","The Skull Beneath The Skin","Looking Down The Cross" and "Chosen Ones". He ended the set with "The Mechanix",the awesome original version of "The Four Horsemen". They were called back to do one more song, their ode to headbangers ,"Rattlehead",done so fast & heavy it makes Metallica sound like wimps. These guys fuckin' kill!!!

After a long intermission,the house-lights dimmed and the stage was covered in huge billows of dry-ice fog. It was the moment the die-hard bangers had been waiting for - EXODUS!! They took the place by storm,as they exploded into "Bonded By Blood". It was obvious they were doing a volume overkill but they were still clear as hell!! Next up was their theme song,"Exodus",so loud & heavy it would curdle cement!!! They did all their classic ear-bleeders:-"Hell's Breath","Death Row","And Then There Were None","A Lesson In Violence","No Love","Piranha", "Deliver Us To Evil" and"Impaler". Then came the all-time Thrash classic "Strike Of The Beast" to leave the stage annihilated!!! EXODUS came back to kill all bangers with "Metal Command". I've seen EXODUS many times,but every time they get better,heavier & faster. All I can say is: EXODUS is GOD!!!

(MARTY EGER '85)

VENOM/EXODUS/CHARIOT - Apollo Theatre,Manchester
5th October 1985

First band to hit the stage was CHARIOT,bloody boring they were too. Admittedly,a sizeable amount of the crowd seemed to enjoy their set,but that just goes to show what sort of stuff your average UK VENOM fan is into! Anyway, enough of that boring rubbish and onto the best band of the night.....EXODUS!!!

As expected,EXODUS opened with "Bonded By Blood" and continued to play all the LP tracks except "Metal Command" and "Deliver Us To Evil". I was totally amazed by their sheer power and heaviness,plus they were extremely tight which is essential for any Thrash Metal band. Lead singer (?) Paul Baloff couldn't keep still (and neither could the banging heads at the front),and Rick Hunolt was pretty wild too. For me,one of the highlights of the show was when Baloff pointed at the bouncers and announced,"I want to see you killing these people!" - quite right too,cos the bouncers spent the whole evening causing trouble instead of preventing it. My only serious complaint about EXODUS was the time they wasted with guitar solos (Gary and Rick had one each,and both were quite long) when they could/should have played 2 extra songs instead....also I wish they'd played a couple of old classics such as "Hell's Breath" and "Impaler". I suppose they would have done so if they'd had a longer set (you can blame VENOM for that). All good things must end and so EXODUS finished their set after approx. 40 minutes,leaving all but the wimps (i.e. VENOM fans!?) with severe neckache.

One of the main things that struck me about this gig (apart from the brilliance of EXODUS) was its predictabilit-y:I expected CHARIOT to be shit,and they were;I expected EXODUS to be awesome,and they were;and I expected VENOM to be boring,and they were. In fact,VENOM turned out to be even more boring than I anticipated. After the relatively lukewarm reception that EXODUS got,VENOM sent the crowd into a state of near-hysteria (well,sort of) and as soon as they took the stage I was surrounded by people attempting to headbang & doing all types of guitar poses. The first thought that sprung to my mind was,"Where were all you lot 3 years ago when VENOM really needed support?"...I can vividly remember that only a year ago I'd been regarded as a "Thrash Metal weirdo" at a MANOWAR gig,due to a VENOM patch on my jacket...but now of course it's very "hip" to like VENOM,isn't it? I suspect that a great many of VENOM's fans are only into the band because of their image,as I saw quite a few Motley Crue fans walking around...and let's face it,the only thing that VENOM and Crue have in common is their image. Anyhow,back to the gig itself:VENOM were complete and utter dross,they insulted their audience by going onstage and making very little attempt at playing their songs properly,so at times it was near-impossible to distinguish what they were playing. The sound was crap,and the only good part of the stage-show was the fla[illegible]owers.

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its all a fucking farce.
STRENGTH!! BASH NAZIS hellbastard
PHIL 86.

WELL, IT ALL STARTED IN 1983 ONE DAY WHEN MY BIG FAT BROTHER TOOT SAID "WHY NOT BE CALLED..."SONS OF VENGEANCE"? AND ME AND GLOOPY (ORIGINAL SINGER) THOUGHT,... AND THOUGHT, THEN DECIDED, YES, SO WITH OUR NAME, A CRAP GUITAR, A PLECK, AND A VOCALIST, WE SET ABOUT GETTING A BASSIST, WE DID AND WE DID LOTS OF GIGS AT THE ONE + ONLY "STATION" GATESHEAD, ANYHOW, WE WERE CRAP AND ALL GLOOPY COULD SING WAS EITHER "FUCKOFF" OR FUNNY SLURPING NOISES DUE TO THE CONSTANT GRIP OF A BOTTLE OF CIDER STUCK TO HIS MOUTH ANYWAY AFTER LOADS OF MUCKING ABOUT GLOOPS LEFT DUE TO UNKNOWN REASONS THEN SIMO SANG FOR 1 GIG, HE WAS SO GOOD THAT WE DECIDED HE SHOULD PLAY BASS, ANYHOW THEN CAME "BROKEN BOTTLE TO THE NECK" WE GOT 7 SONGS TOGETHER THEN HELLBASTARD CAME TOGETHER, WE RECORDED A TAPE IN NEIL + LEES HACKNEY HAMMER BASEMENT, ONLY TROUBLE WAS YOU CANT GET A good SOUND USING DISORDERS GUITAR SO TO TOP IT ALL THE AMP STARTED FARTING AND WE HAD A UNIQUE SOUND. AND NOW, MANY, MANY, PEDALS, STRINGS NEW GUITAR + BASS WE HAVE A HEAVY, GRINDING SET TOGETHER AND A DEMO IS PLANNED SOON ! PROBABLY BEFORE THIS IS PRINTED. SO LOOK OUT FOR IT! STRICTLY NO SATANIC SHIT INVOLVED. ENGLAND'S NEW STORMTROOPING BAND IS UNLEASHED. SKRUFF: 83-86.

CYCLONE

CYCLONE are one of the few decent bands to come out from Belgium. They play tight and professional Thrash Metal, not unlike METALLICA, although they do sound original. Their line-up is as follows:-
Johnny "Chips" Kerbusch (rhythm guitar).
Psycho Kalle (lead guitar).
Nicolas "Coco" Lairin (drums).
Michel De Rydt (bass).
Guy "Awesome" Levels (vocals).

Anyway, a while ago, Paul C. sent some interview questions to CYCLONE, and the results are below.

BELGIUM IS NOT EXACTLY WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS HARDCORE METAL BANDS. CAN YOU RECOMMEND ANY OTHERS?

GUY: Not that I know of.

DO YOU HAVE A LARGE FOLLOWING IN BELGIUM?

GUY: Every gig we get a good response. We also get many letters from people asking for demos and info.

PLEASE DESCRIBE A TYPICAL CYCLONE GIG.

GUY: Total Death, going wild onstage. We wear no stage clothing or wimp stuff. Just the street look, dirty and mean.

HAVE YOUR GIGS BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

GUY: Up to now we have played 6 gigs. All of them have been a success.

HOW MANY SONGS DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR SET?

GUY: We did have 14 but we dropped 4 which leaves 10.

WHO WRITES THE SONGS?

GUY: The 2 guitarists and I do the music. I also write the lyrics.

ARE THERE MANY UNDERGROUND METALLERS IN BELGIUM?

GUY: More are getting into tape-trading and hearing about other bands around the world but many are still only into the well-known bands such as Metallica and Anthrax.

ANY FINAL COMMENTS?

GUY: BEWARE & BEHOLD because we're the most thrashing band to come out of Belgium. If interested, write to us.

...And so ends the CYCLONE interview, hardly the most rivetting article ever but you can't blame ME for that! Still, I'd like to thank Guy for answering the questions, and I'd like to thank Michel for not having a silly nickname unlike all the other guys in CYCLONE!!

CYCLONE NECKBRACE WARRIORS
VOGELENZANG 32
9000 GENT
BELGIUM.

THANATOS
c/o Stephan Gebedy
Dordtselaan 27F
3081 BD Rotterdam
Holland.

Thanatos

'SPEED KILLS'

How was THANATOS formed? "Remco and I formed the band and we got Marcel to join after several weeks. We were first called Whiplash".
Who are your main influences? "We try to create an original style of Metal, and we do not want to copy anybody. Of course there are some guitarists I'm influenced by, like Kerry King and Kirk Hammet, my favourite guitarists are Jake E. Lee, Mantas, Dave Murray and Michael Denner".
Why wasn't there a bassist on the demo? "We didn't use a bassist because we thought we would get a better sound with 2 guitars than with 1 guitar/1 bass. But we will use a bass on the second demo".
What's the Metal scene like in Holland? "Holland's Metal scene SUCKS! There aren't that many thrashers over here, most "headbangers" over here are into Motley Crap and W.I.M.P. (you know who I mean!). Free radio stations only play Q5 and Iron Maiden. There are no (very few perhaps) Thrash Metal bands in Holland (except THANATOS of course!)".
How do you manage financially? "We do not manage financially!!! We are the poorest band ever from Holland. We do not even have the money for a decent rehearsal room! I hope I'll find some work during the summer. Marcel will also be trying to find some work and Remco (who's only 16) is still at school. Our playing is part-time!".
When do you intend to start playing gigs? "We are planning to do some gigs in September/October (not abroad though) perhaps later in the year".
What is your new material like? "I don't know if you consider the new riffs 'all-out over-the-top thrash'. All I can say is that we try to write songs that are different from each other (the louder the better of course)".
Any final comments? "THANATOS are the ultimate Ultra-Heavy Speed Metal band from Europe; everyone who doesn't buy our demo is a poser!"
Thanks go to Ken Owen for doing the interview for us, and to Stephan for answering the questions.

death

If there's just one band that fits the term "Death Metal" perfectly, then that band must surely be DEATH. Since their formation almost three years ago, they have always been one of the leading names in the underground Metal scene. For those of you who haven't heard them yet (why not??), their music can best be described as pure DEATH (sounds corny, but it's true) - incredibly powerful & distorted guitars, super-growly vocals and high-speed drumming - this band are ESSENTIAL!! Hear them at all costs.

Their first demo was released under their old name "MANTAS", and was titled "Death By Metal". It turned out to be the most intense Thrash you could hear in the first half of 1984, and its five lethal tracks soon became firm favourites with hardcore thrashers all over the world.

At the end of 1984 the band changed their name to DEATH and recorded the "Reign Of Terror" demo, the like of which had never been heard before by human ears. It was so fuckin' heavy & fast I just couldn't believe it!! And I know many other people who felt the same way.

Yet even this vicious excellence was improved upon by DEATH's next release, the "Infernal Death" demo. The three tracks featured were extremely raw & aggressive, just like the earlier material - only better!!! At this point, DEATH's following began to grow and they did a few gigs with Nasty Savage.

After that, things got a little confusing. Matt and Scott (of Michigan's GENOCIDE) joined, then had to leave because Kam Lee (the drummer) moved out of Florida. So, Evil Chuck went to San Francisco where he began working on new material with Eric (ex-drummer of D.R.I.). They did a demo, "Back From The Dead", but Eric joined Hirax and Chuck moved to Canada to join SLAUGHTER. BUT all is not lost!! Chuck soon left SLAUGHTER and moved away...so maybe DEATH can return from the grave once more??? Let's hope so, cos life just ain't the same without DEATH!

(BILL '86)

A COLUMN REFLECTING LOCAL CHRISTIAN OPINION

Fanzines

"My girlfriend just doesn't realise how hard it is to give up playing an imaginary guitar."

RAGING DEATH no.1:- If you like German Death Metal,then this is the mag for you! It contains Destruction,Kreator,Poison,Mayhem,Sodom and Iron Angel...as well as non-German groups such as Possessed,Slayer,Celtic Frost etc. RAGING DEATH is excellently-printed and is full of great photos,including a Destruction centrespread. Send 3 dollars (inc.P & P) to:- RAGING DEATH,c/o Mike Davidson,100 Richard Street,Parsippany,N.J. 07054 U.S.A. Watch out for the second issue as it promises to be intense!!!

FINAL CURTAIN no.14:- This is generally acknowled-ged as the best British fanzine,and so it should be. Features: Desecrators,Plain Wrap,Anihilated, Half Life,S*A*S plus reviews,ads etc. and an Ivor The Anarchist cartoon. The layout is excelle-nt,the printing is good,and the interviews are always of interest....Mr. May is becoming a real expert at doing his zine so if you haven't checked F.C. out by now then do so IMMEDIATELY!!! 25p & SAE (or a couple of IRC's if you live overseas) to:- FINAL CURTAIN,c/o Paul May, 12 Macleod Close,Grays,Essex,RM17 5RD,England.

METAL POWER no.4:- Excellently-printed on high-quality paper,with a professional layout. Only one problem - it's all in German! Never mind, some of you may still want to buy this just for the superb photos. Bands contained are: Slayer, Metallica,Nasty Savage,Destruction,Eden,Venom, Savage Grace,Exxplorer,Warrant,Liege Lord and many more...also loads of reviews. Send DM 4,- & 3 IRC's to:- METAL POWER,c/o Karsten Rauer, Heidekamp 56,5840 Schwerte,West Germany.

THE SMELLIEST BREATH no.2:- Bands featured are Dirge,Stupids,Sacrilege,Anti-System,S*A*S, Famous Imposters,Xpozez...plus reviews,ads etc. Above-average printing & layout - and great value for money,too! 15p & large SAE to:- RICHARD,3 Paddock Close,Wyke,Bradford,West Yorkshire,BD12 9LB,England.

OVER THE RAINBOW no.1:- A local zine,this one, and I must say it's really good. Diversity is the name of the game here....interviews with Siege, Sludge Confrontations,Geoffrey Hayes (presenter of kiddies' TV show "Rainbow")...features on John Noakes,smoking,fighting back,Laurel & Hardy, hunt-sabbing etc. Also pix,jokes,drawings,newspa-per cuttings and reviews. A very individual mag, I reckon....and a great read. 20p & SAE (or 70c & IRC) from:- Pete C.,12 Penuel Road,Walton, Liverpool,L4 6XA,England.

UNIVERSAL BRAIN BASHER no.3:- Features: Predator Demonax,Mania,Battle Brat,Mox Nix,Snatch,Q5, Destructor,Antix,Nightmare II,Shok Paris,Vice, Assassin,Artillery & many many more. I haven't seen it so I can't comment on it! Send 75p or $1.50 to: U.B.B.,c/o Mike Harstfield,29008 Gladiolus Drive,Canyon Country,CA 91351,U.S.A.

DEATH SQUAD no.1:- Out soon. I'm not sure exactly which bands are in it,but I do know that Warhammer,Sacrifice & Sodom are in there some-where...and there's quite a lot of Hardcore in it too. Another UK zine that deserves your support. For more information,contact:- Alan Yates,82 Frome Road,Trowbridge,Wiltshire,BA14 0DG,England.

MAXIMUM ROCK'N'ROLL:- I shouldn't really need to mention MRR as it is basically the Hardcore bible,still there may be the odd one or two of you who haven't come across it. The price is 1 dollar (but add some extra for postage) and it comes out monthly. MAXIMUM ROCK'N'ROLL,P.O.Box 288,Berkeley,CA 94701,U.S.A.

WASTEFUL EXISTANCE no.3:- A great mag,let down only by the poor printing. Ah well. I'd still advise you to buy this,as it contains some really excellent bands:- Cryptic Slaughter,Ludichrist,Heresy,Anihilated,Bloodlust and Legion Of Parasites. I'm a bit unsure about the price but I think it's 30p (don't forget the SAE/IRC's!) WASTEFUL EXISTANCE,c/o Mart,1 Medina Road,Grays,Essex, RM17 6AQ,England.

FILTHY TRASH no.1:- Like many UK zines,this one is A5 size (i.e. half the size of PHOENIX MILITIA). It's printed in red and black which means that it stands out a mile against most mags that you come across. There are interviews with Disorder and Danbert Nobacon,features on Frank Sidebottom,work,freedom,Ginger John and police.... not to mention reviews,a distribution list,drawings & cartoons. Definitely worth investing in. The price is 20p & SAE,from:- FILTHY TRASH,c/o Hammy,36 Sykes Close, Soothill,Batley,W. Yorks,WF17 0PP,England.

IGNORANCE OF THE UNBORN no.2:- This is quite old now I guess,but it still deserves a mention. The printing is rather average - a common problem - yet you can't really complain about the contents:- Onslaught,Legion Of Parasites,Morbid Humour,Chumbawumba,Warfare,Metalli-ca,Suicides,Alternative etc. (not forgetting reviews and stuff like that). Paul (the editor) is very open-minded and has no pathetic bias against Metal,unlike so many other UK Punk-zine writers...this mag deserves your support! 15p & SAE to:- Paul Fox,351 Acklam Road, Middlesborough,Cleveland,TS5 7HA,England.

STRAIGHT ON! no.1:- A mag based around the North Carol-ina Hardcore scene,full of gig & vinyl reviews,photos and an interview with Schizoid. A good read. I've no idea what the price is so why don't you write and ask? STRAIGHT ON!,c/o Scott Williams,115 Ashe Avenue, Raleigh,N.C. 27605,U.S.A.

FLYER ART no.1:- Should be out by the time you read this...it features flyers of various Hardcore bands:- 7 Seconds,Suicidal Tendencies,Excel,D*R*I,Raw Power, Disattack,C*O*C*,Cryptic Slaughter,Crucifix,Septic Death & many more. Is this the world's first flyer-zine ???? I think so. Write for more info to:- Wayne Blacksh-ire,"Lucaya",386 Melton Road,Sprotbrough,Doncaster, S.Yorks,DN5 7PA,England.

BLOWING THRASH no.1:- Dunno the price of this one,but it's definitely worth checking out as it must be the only Thrash Metal mag from Chile! Sadly,it's all written in Chilean (or is it Spanish???) but it's full of good pix of bands like Slayer,Hirax,At War,Overkill, Possessed,Kreator,Savage Grace,Sodom etc. The second issue should be out very soon and will kill if this is anything to go by. Write for more info to:- BLOWING THRASH,c/o Anton Reisenegger,P.O.Box 1895,Santiago, Chile.

PROBLEM CHILD no.4:- Great printing which means that the photos have come out really well for once. Intervie-ws with Diatribe,Anihilated,Blyth Power,Onslaught, Concrete Sox,Deformed,Evil I and Silent Community. Plenty of good reading in here! 20p & SAE from:- Paul, 51 Yeading Lane,Hayes,Middx,UB4 0EN,England.

SPARSE no.3:- I haven't even seen this yet,to be honest with you...but I feel that it deserves a mention as it's a local zine that features mainly H.C.Thrash. This one comtains Final Warning,AOF,76% Uncertain,Neon Christ & loads more. Only 15p & SAE from:- Simon,"Llysfaen", Spring Vale,Rainford,Merseyside,WA11 8PB,England.

MUTILATOR no.1:- This was "unleashed" during the summer of 1985,but Tom hasn't done any other issues since then - I wish he would,cos it's a very promising zine. Here we have interviews with Bathory,Possessed,Mayhem,VoiVod, Nasty Savage,Nuclear Assault,Destruction,Whiplash,Have Mercy,Concrete Sox and Destructor...and reviews,ads etc. 2 dollars should hopefully cover postage & packing. MUTILATOR,c/o Tom Capone,11 Bening Lane,Ho[illegible]rook,N.Y. 11741,U.S.A.